

Second Sunday of Advent - Prepare the way of the Lord



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Advent is the season of expectant waiting for the Son of God, who comes down to earth to save humanity. As we enter the season of Advent, we will meet again with two prophets, Isaiah, and John the Baptist in the readings of the Mass. The book of Isaiah is one of the longest of the Old Testament books, this prophet was born 800 years before Jesus Christ. The book of Isaiah is still read often in synagogues. Perhaps Jesus heard more about Isaiah than the other prophets. Thus, in Luke's Gospel, he begins his ministry by reading a passage from the prophet Isaiah and applying it to himself (Lk 4:16-21).

The prophet Isaiah is a prophet of hope, especially in the book of Isaiah, where he describes the birth of the Messiah: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). The prophet Isaiah is also a prophet of God's mercy and peace. In the first reading today, we hear that "not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide right for the land's afflicted" (Isaiah 11:4).

John the Baptist first appeared in the Gospel with a completely different appearance from the other prophets, Matthew says: "John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey" (Matthew 3:4). Although he was different from the other prophets, many people came and heard him preach. He preached repentance and called everyone to turn back and believe in God. God invites us to wear the new man through the passages of the Lord's words we just heard today on the second Sunday of Advent year A.

John the Baptist preached and invited people to come down to the Jordan River to be purified. Today we are called to purify our hearts to prepare ourselves for the indwelling of the Child Jesus. The prophet Isaiah guides us on our Advent journey to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. The prophet Isaiah also urges us to correct and give up the evil passions that defile the temple of the heart. Advent is a favorable time for people to return and reconcile with God; He is always waiting for us. I hope that today's readings touch our hearts so that we can prepare ourselves very diligently so that the Son of God comes to earth and dwells in our hearts.