

December 6, 2009

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2nd Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5: 1 – 9

Philippians 1: 4 – 6, 8 1 – 11

Luke 3: 1 – 6

The Gospel reading for the 2nd Sunday of Advent concerns the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist. This ministry was the proclamation of a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John's mission was to "prepare the way of the Lord" and bring Christ into the hearts of all – saints and sinners alike – so that "all flesh can see the salvation of God" (v. 6). This was first written and spoken by the prophet Isaiah (vs. 3-6). It is noteworthy that John's prophetic ministry is of divine origin in that "the word of God came to John in the desert" (v. 2). Yet the fulfillment of this ministry took place in the entire country of the Jordan. It is still spreading today.

It is too easy and convenient to let the secular world of Christmas invade the spiritual world of Christmas. Like Lent, prayer, fasting and doing good works, should mark our Advent preparation.

We might reflect about our Advent journey if we were poor and had no options but continue on living simply as we do – hoping and praying for a better tomorrow.

195

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