

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, December 11, 2017

Year 2/Cycle B

Is. 40:1-5,9-11 Mk.1:1-8

Advent Week 2

Prep Time Now!!

Here we are in the 2nd week of Advent... what is our guide word??? – PREPARING. There is nothing that ever happens in our life that there will not be a time set aside for preparing. A wedding has no end of prep time, rehearsal, a coordinator, practice....an Ordination (seminary), a graduation (final exams), medical degree (internship), teaching (practicum), this list goes on. So anything we meaningfully acquire or gain need time for learning,

practice and preparation. Well, the birth of our Messiah is to be treated no less. The question maybe, do we take the Nativity seriously?

Observe, the word Christmas is NOT used as Nativity is quite different from Christmas. Nativity of Our Lord and Savior has a different mindset to Christmas. As a Catholic, Nativity has thoughts of the long awaited Messiah, Immanuel -God with us, which has nothing to do with gifts, Santa Claus, wreath, carols, reindeer or egg nog.

The 1st Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, (who was afforded by God the prophetic knowledge of more facts about a Messiah some 500 years before He arrived), impressed on us the need to *'prepare the way'*.

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!" (Is. 40:3)

Please, we are not to wait for good circumstances, ideal conditions; but to *'prepare in the midst of the wilderness'* in the jungle and confusion of our 21st century... with the

wildfires, murders, human enslavement, prejudices, waning of democratic order, diseases, addictions; yes, we are to prepare for the Messiah in these conditions. In the middle of this chaos we are to blaze a strait road so that when the Messiah comes, there is a path blazed by the faithful for Him to walk.

“Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!” (Is. 40:3)

In the Gospel reading from Mark, we encounter John the Baptizer, who was 2000 years ago the one appointed to be

“A voice proclaims” (Is. 40:3)

As we should remember the fate of John- he was beheaded. So who will be the voice in our times?

“I am sending my messenger ahead of you;

he will prepare your way.” (Mk.1:2)

WE ARE!!! It is our voices the Christians (followers of Christ) who have to be the voices in our empty, hungry world today.

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make straight his paths.” (Mk.1:3)

It is only when our voices are raised in prayer and proclamation of His coming will this happen.

“Every valley shall be lifted up,

every mountain and hill made low” (Is. 40:4)

It is only with our raised voices will the painful mountains of ISIS, world hunger, child prostitution, abortion, economic injustices be brought down.

“The rough country, a broad valley.” (Is. 40:4)

Areas that are rough, hearts that are indifferent, greedy, inhumane, they will turn around and begin to level the *‘playing field’* for others. God made us a promise to those who heed the call to proclaim.

“Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together.” (Is.40:5)

As a human being we too echo the question posed by Isaiah to God...

“What shall I proclaim?” (Is. 40:5)

God’s response is what we have been hearing, all the time. Our cares, things and ‘stuff’ is worthless and have no value.... either here on Earth, and absolutely no count in heaven. So why do we pursue it, interest, money, fame, position?

“All flesh is grass,

The grass withers, the flower wilts,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it.” (Is. 40:6-7)

We are the ‘grass’ that last for a moment and all our possessions are either stolen, squandered, or wasted by people who don’t know or care about us. So why our needless worry? Yes, God says it again... “We are nothing, but creatures of God to return to God we are here only for a short time.

“Yes, the people (US) is grass!

The grass withers, the flower wilts,” (Is. 40:7-8)

There is only one fact that will be constant, whatever may happen on this earth

“The Word of our God stands forever.” (Is. 40:8)

It is ‘PREP’ time now!!! Don’t buy the tree and trim with decorations, fix the house, get the wood for the fireplace and not Prepare our hearts, our minds our spirit for the coming of the Messiah. Prepare for the coming of the Messiah in our cold world by cleaning for someone who has no one; sharing your meal with the homeless; bringing a song and word to those who are sick; visit a long forgotten friend.... The word is prepare !!!.... Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.... Don’t fail to prepare!!!!

]

Let us pray for our country, who has passed legislature which turns its back to the poor, dishonesty is no longer an embarrassment, those who seek a better way and follow rules, have laws that are now set against them. May Advent help to prepare us as we reach out to prepare others too.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

Brenda Chee Wah, *a parishioner of Christ Our Hope Catholic Church
Lithonia, Georgia.*

Available now on webpage/Facebook

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

[Now on FaceBook – Christ Our Hope Catholic Church Atlanta](#)

Your remarks, questions, and comments can be emailed to faithinlaity@gmail.com or parish Facebook page.

Scriptures: www.usccb.org