

## **Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2011**

**Call to prayer:** God of glory, you prepare the way for your Son to come among us in mercy and in glory. Make straight the way to our heart this Advent season. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:1-8**

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River  
as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed:

“One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water;

he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Focus:** Mark tells us about John the Baptist, the herald of Good News of the coming of Jesus. We are called to be heralds of this same Good News.

### **Questions for reflection and sharing:**

1. Describe an experience when you prepared for someone special coming into your life.
2. How are you preparing for Christ’s coming?
3. Can you think of a time when someone brought you good news that changed your life?

**Concluding prayer:** God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy. Help us to share in his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.