

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

December 9, 2018

Baruch 5:1–9 † Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11 † Luke 3:1–6



Reflection by: Sister Jeanne Goyette, OP

God is leading in joy with mercy and justice.

Do you remember a time when you thought, “I can’t wait to get home”? Perhaps it was after an extended journey with flight cancellations, or perhaps during a difficult car ride with severe weather and backups, or after a long and weary day at work. And when reaching home, you could relax and give thanks to God.

In the first reading from Baruch we recall how the Israelites were longing for home during their long exile. Baruch reassures them that God will lead them back from exile in joy, with mercy and justice for company. Baruch is a book of hope which reveals the transformative power of trusting in God’s mercy and forgiveness. God removes the obstacles on the way so that Israel may advance secure in God.

John the Baptist cries out, “Prepare the way of the Lord...make the rough ways smooth.” We are encouraged not only to remove the obstacles in our own lives that get in the way for the coming of the Lord, but also to help clear God’s way for others. How can we help clear the path for others? Perhaps we can offer mercy and loving kindness, especially toward someone who feels lost or abandoned. Or we can act to express our concern when others do not have what they need to live a free, secure and healthy home life. And we can remind others to trust that it is God who is leading the way with joy and mercy.

We all long for a secure and peaceful home. We also know that our hearts will always be restless until we rest in God. Let this Advent be a time of clearing the way so that we may rest in God and help others to do so as well.