

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

December 5, 2021

The Second Sunday of Advent

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

Reflection by: Sister Eileen Ivory, OP

The hopeful images presented by the prophets in the liturgical Scripture readings of Advent offer sharp (and very welcome) contrast to the “hellfire and brimstone” of the past few Sundays. Luke draws upon the prophet Isaiah to paint a picture of the natural obstacles that would have confronted travelers. Mountains, valleys, gorges, all serving to make the journey more arduous, if not impossible.



It's not difficult to go from natural obstacles to envisioning those which hamper our spiritual lives. John the Baptist challenged those in his day and us today to “Prepare the way of the Lord.” To do what is necessary so that the impossible becomes possible. As so often happens when we take God's Word seriously, today we find ourselves called to be and to do. John's message is a call for each one of us to reform his/her own life. And then, indicative of the change wrought by such reform, we become the one who points out Jesus present in our life experience.

Advent is not only a season; it is a daily occurrence! What is the grace of this promise?