

Welcome to the Second Sunday of Advent, Year C!

This week, the readings invite us to reflect on the themes of *hope, preparation, and the coming of Christ*. But before we dive into the deep stuff, let's imagine something:

Advent is like preparing for a surprise guest. It's like when you hear your doorbell ring, and you have 30 seconds to tidy up your house. You throw the laundry in the closet, toss the dishes in the sink, and pray that they don't ask to use the bathroom. We're all getting ready for the arrival of Jesus, but instead of a house, it's our hearts that need some tidying up.

In the first reading (**Baruch 5:1-9**), the prophet gives us a vision of God's glory making our crooked paths straight, like an overzealous GPS recalculating your route every time you miss a turn. The *psalm (126)* echoes this sense of joyful anticipation with the hope that God will turn our tears into laughter.

Finally, in the Gospel (**Luke 3:1-6**), John the Baptist rolls onto the scene shouting about repentance and preparing the way for the Lord. He's kind of like the ultimate houseguest who calls ahead, reminds you to clean, and insists on making dinner (probably something healthy, like kale chips). John's mission is clear: if we prepare the way, Christ will come to us, just as sure as that doorbell will ring.

So, this Advent, let's take a moment to tidy up—not just our homes but our hearts. Let's make room for the greatest guest of all, and remember that a little preparation now will lead to a joyful welcome later. Just... maybe skip the kale chips.