

Sunday 6 December 2026
Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

First Reading - *Isaiah 40.1-5a*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort my people,
and speak tenderly to Jerusalem.

Let her know
that she has served her sentence.

Her penalty is paid.

She has already received,
from the Lord's hand,
double
for all her transgressions.

And now,
a voice cries out:

'In the wilderness,
prepare the way of the Lord.

Fill the valleys,
level the hills,
straighten the paths,
and make the rough ways
smooth.

And the glory of the Lord
will be revealed.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *2 Peter 3.8-15a*

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Some have said,
from a human perspective,
that the promises of the Lord
are slow
in coming to fulfilment.

But with the Lord, a day
is like
a thousand years,
and a thousand years
are like
a day.

So we
do not say
that the fulfilment
of the Lord's promise
is delayed.

Instead,
we understand
that the Lord
is being patient,
allowing time
for all to repent;
for the Lord prefers
that none
should perish.

For the day of the Lord
will come

like a thief in the night.

With thunder and fire,
the heavens will pass away.

And the earth,
and everything upon it,
will be destroyed.

And there will be new heavens,
and a new earth,
where everything
will be made perfect
in the presence of God,
in fulfilment
of God's promises.

As we await that day,
let us live holy and godly lives,
at peace with God.

And let us remember
that the patience
of our Lord
is our gracious opportunity
for salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Mark 1.1-8*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

Here begins
the good news,
the gospel of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.

God spoke
through the prophet Isaiah,
saying, 'I am sending
my messenger
ahead of you,
to prepare the way,
a voice to cry out
in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way of the Lord."

And so
indeed
it came about
that John the Baptist
appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism
of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.

And all the people
of Judea and Jerusalem
were going out to him.

And they were baptised by him,
in the river Jordan,
confessing their sins.

His clothing
was made from camel's hair,
with a belt of leather;
and for food,
he ate locusts,
and wild honey.

And in his preaching, he said:
'I baptise you with water,
but after me
comes one who is more powerful.'

I am not worthy
even to be his servant.

And he will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.