

Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home
2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

December 6, 2020

“Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.”
– Isaiah 40:1

“...the day of the Lord will come like a thief”
– 2 Peter 3:10

We are called to do two things by our Scriptures this weekend: First, to allow ourselves to be open to God’s comforting us, and second, to pave the way for God’s son’s re-entry into our world.

Comfort is most definitely what we all need now. We yearn for this pandemic to lift, to float away like a bad dream. We long to sing the old time Gospel hymn by Clara Ward – “How I Got Over.” But we’re not there yet, and word is that the worst is yet to come! So our song these days instead is “Hold on Just A Little While Longer, Everything is Going to Be All Right.” Remember, God want to comfort us.

The 1st chapter of the Gospel of Mark echoes the 40th chapter of Isaiah:

“A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!”
– Isaiah 40:3

“A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”
– Mark 1:3

The following poetic sermon by Saint Oscar Romero sums up how in this period of many kinds of waiting – waiting for the Nativity, waiting for Christ’s second coming, waiting for a corona cure – we are to reach out to the vulnerable in our gratitude and expectation of the joy on that is coming on the wings of dawn.

Christ Loved and Awaited

Christ is now in history.
Christ is in the womb of the people.
Christ is now bringing about the new heavens
and the new earth.

Christ became a man of his people and of his time:
He lived as a Jew,
he worked as a laborer of Nazareth,
and since then he continues to become incarnate
in everyone.

If many have distanced themselves from the church,
it is precisely because the church has somewhat
estranged itself from humanity.
But a church that can feel as its own as that is human
and wants to incarnate the pain, the hope,
the affliction of all who suffer and feel joy,
such a church will be Christ loved and awaited,
Christ present.
And that depends on us.

The Christian knows that Christ has been working
in humanity for twenty centuries
and that the person that is converted to Christ
is the new human being that society needs
to organize a world according to God's heart.

Advent should admonish us to discover
in each brother or sister that we greet,
in each friend whose hand we shake,
in each beggar who asks for bread,
in each worker who wants to use the right to join a union,
in each peasant who looks for work in the coffee groves,
the face of Christ.
Then it would not be possible to rob them,
To cheat them, to deny them their rights.
They are Christ,

And whatever is done to them
Christ will take as done to himself.

This is what Advent is:

Christ living among us.

– by St. Oscar Romero, adapted from his

The Violence of Love

Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

December 6, 2020

Prelude: Center yourselves first by singing along with “Prepare Ye (the Way of the Lord),” by Kenneth W. Louis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njSc2bT6VHY>

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Lord Jesus, you were promised in times of great turmoil:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you were foretold by John the Baptist:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to prepare for your coming into our lives:

Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

With tender comfort and transforming power

you come into our midst, O God of mercy and might.

Make ready a way in the wilderness,

clear a straight path in our hearts,

and form us into a repentant people, that the advent of your Son may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,

whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God forever and ever. Let the Church say.....AMEN!

First, listen to “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” by Richard Smallwood & Vision: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c4qHt5SBSE>

Then move on to this Sunday’s readings:

Readings for Second Sunday of Advent, Year B December 6, 2020

1st Reading – Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

¹ Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

⁴ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low;^[L]^[SEP] the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁹ Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!

¹⁰ Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him.

¹¹ Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm – 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

⁹ I will hear what God proclaims;^[L]^[SEP]
the LORD, for he proclaims peace to his people.^[L]^[SEP]

¹⁰ Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,^[L]^[SEP]
glory dwelling in our land.^[L]^[SEP]

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

11 Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.

12 Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

13 The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.

14 Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

2nd Reading – 2 Peter 3:8-14

8 Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day.

9 The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

11 Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,

12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire.

13 But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

14 Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

Gospel – Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

3 A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

⁴ John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵ 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.

⁶ John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey.

⁷ 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.

⁸ I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.....Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection Prompts:

- What signs of the presence of God's reign do you find in your life and in our world?
- How can you cooperate in God's work by making this Christmas season a homecoming for exiles – either those who have taken a vacation from the church or those who are exiled from their home countries?

Meditation Prompts:

- Make an appointment with yourself to honestly examine your conscience and decide what obstacles, behaviors and actions keep you from truly preparing the way of the Lord.
- What is God speaking to your heart in the hollowed-out wintry spaces of these Advent days?

Then move into this week's prayers of the faithful.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – December 6, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

Presider: We pray for and await God's loving presence to all who are in need of comfort.

Worship Leader

1. For the church: that we may be channels for God's loving, tender presence in the world. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
(RESPOND: **Comfort your people, O God.**)

2. For the will to shower compassion and loving kindness upon those we judge to be different or difficult. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
3. For healthcare workers and social workers, counselors and pastors and all who work to provide comfort to those in need. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
4. For Lourdes ministries of compassion, including our Stephen Ministry, its leaders, and all Care Team members and receivers in our parish. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
5. For those who feel hopeless because of poverty, war, violence, disease, unemployment, or homelessness, that God's love will break through to them. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
6. For government leaders: that they may promote policies that bring hope to those who are most vulnerable. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
7. On this St. Nicholas Day, for a spirit of generosity and child-like wonder to punctuate our lives, especially in this season. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
8. For the citizens of this nation to consistently observe physical distancing and masking as a way to combat the corona virus, especially during this time where we await widespread and effective vaccinations. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
9. For all our loved ones in the military and their families, that they be returned to us safely and experience a welcoming community. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**
10. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, especially those listed in our bulletin, and for all those living with HIV and AIDS, that they know our community's care for them. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**

11. For all the dead, that they see God face to face, especially Father Chester Smith and David Patton III for whom this Mass is being celebrated. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**

12. Please share any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Comfort your people, O God.**

Presider: Gracious God, you have promised to reveal your glory in healing, justice and peace. Help us to be patient and hopeful as we await you each day. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who comes as the fulfillment of your promise. LET THE CHURCH SAY.....AMEN!

Sing or recite “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Then, behold “Walk in the Light,” Aretha Franklin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PNnegn2yIQ>

Closing Prayer

Almighty and merciful God,
do not let our earthly concerns keep us
from hastening to meet your Son,
but teach us the heavenly wisdom
that makes us his true companions.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever. Let the Church say.....AMEN!

Closing Song

“Prepare Ye (the Way of the Lord),” Kenneth W. Louis
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njSc2bT6VHY>