



Daily Reflections

MAKE STRAIGHT A HIGHWAY

By Julie Mussché

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.*

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."*

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

*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.*

*John was clothed in camel's hair,
with a leather belt around his waist.*

He fed on locusts and wild honey.

*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.
I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

MARK 1:2-8

Reflection

Today through the Word, we are invited to witness the focus and clarity of the prophetic voice, “A voice cries out; In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!” The intersection of the various readings lets us know that preparing the way requires a penitent heart and actively proclaiming the Good News. The words weave God’s promises of salvation and the end of the world. Rather dizzying.

For the people living during the time of Jesus, the end of the world might have seemed like a real possibility with the invasions and occupations that had occurred. Perhaps there is some similarity to our present time.

Notwithstanding a cataclysmic ending of the world, I wonder if the call to path clearing is more spiritual. To make a way through the wilderness of our heart, to make room for God to enter and companion our daily walk. A voice cries out -- prepare the way!



For Pondering

You are invited to take a few minutes out of your day to sit with and explore today's readings (just [**click here**](#)). As we enter the Second Week of Advent, in your perusing and luxuriating in the Word:

- What is the message you are receiving?
 - What is the message you would like to herald?
 - How is God present to you during this Advent season?
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For Prayer

*R. (8) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.
I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.*

*R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.
Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
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.
The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.*

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

PSALM 85:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

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