

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-2,
7-8,12-13,17
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Monday December 5

Isaiah 35:1-10
Ps 85:9-14
Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11
Ps 96:1-3,10-13
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday December 7

St. Ambrose

Isaiah 40:25-31
Ps 103:1-4,8,10
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday December 8 Immaculate Conception

Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Ps 98:1-4
Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Friday December 9

Isaiah 48:17-19
Ps 1:1-4,6
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday December 10

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19
Matthew 17:9a,10-13

Peace is the theme of the Second Sunday of Advent. The first reading describes Christ the Messiah, who came from the line of Jesse, the father of King David. It also describes how to obtain peace – a peace that sustains us even in the midst of troubles: "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him." Can you feel the Holy Spirit "resting" on you?

We experience true peace when we're in a restful relationship with God, i.e., when we're not struggling against him and his ways and his plans for us. Peace does not depend on bringing to an end the struggles we have with people or the problems we have with financial shortages or addictions or health, etc. We can work hard to accomplish peace in any trial, win the war, and still not be at peace.

Peace comes to us in the wisdom and understanding that we get from the Holy Spirit. Peace comes from following the Spirit's counsel. Peace comes from gaining

knowledge of the truth, in total submission, obediently acting upon the truth.

In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist reminds us to "prepare the way of the Lord and make straight his paths." To receive the Spirit of God and his peace, we must prepare ourselves to meet Jesus in the Eucharist and in all the other ways that he comes to us. What kind of preparation produces peace? It's the work of



honestly identifying our sins, happy that God is merciful, and straightening our crooked paths, because we realize that God's ways are really what's best for us.

Whatever separates us from God's peace, we must get rid of it. To do this, we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Penitential Rite at the beginning of every Mass. Christ equips us for the journey into true peace!

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What turmoil is going on in your life? What has stolen your peace?
2. Where is Jesus? What obstacles (e.g., unforgiveness or resentment) do you need to repent of to see him and feel his peace?
3. What methods do you use to settle down and rest in the Spirit of Jesus when turmoil is spinning around you? What kind of prayer helps? Do you go on retreat or confide in a spiritual director? What are some other ideas?