

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD...

In the Advent journey we are undertaking, through the Liturgy of the Word, on this second Sunday, places us before two important figures who illuminate our path toward Christmas.

First, the prophet Isaiah, whose word springs forth in times of ruin, and the second one, John the Baptist; who from the desert calls us to conversion, to overcome any spiritual lethargy.

Both, in their own words, invite us to adopt two essential attitudes to prepare for the coming of the Lord: hope and conversion.

We live in a world whose atmosphere can be discouraging, where, almost without realizing it, discouragement and pessimism are the air we breathe.

The news, local, national, and international, tells us of social crises, insecurity, wars, political tensions, forced migrations, and injustices. All of this is a reality; we cannot deny it. But as sons and daughters of God, we cannot allow this to be the only way we see the world today, as if darkness and death had the final word.

Isaiah teaches us a different perspective amidst destruction. He announces that a new shoot springs from a dry stump, new life emerges. This reminds us that God does not act from a place of perfection, but rather restores from fragility, from weakness.

Christian hope is not superficial optimism. For those who observe with faith, God is silently at work in every moment, even in what seems barren.

In the midst of this chaotic world, we must discover that God is at work, causing new shoots to sprout: gestures of solidarity, science at the service of life, empathy for those who suffer, shelters for migrants; in short, men and women of faith who strive to love in the style of Jesus.

These new shoots should awaken our faith and our hope.

To recognize these new shoots, the voice of John the Baptist helps us; he tells us to repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand. Conversion engages our whole being; it is not only about changing actions or attitudes. It also includes our way of thinking, allowing the word of Christ to illuminate our judgment, heal our wounds, straighten our paths, and help us discern what is truly important in this life.

Advent offers us a great opportunity:

To grow in hope like the prophet Isaiah

To feel like St. Paul, as the second reading indicates

And to act like John the Baptist.

May our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Sweet Expectation, obtain this blessing for us. Amen.