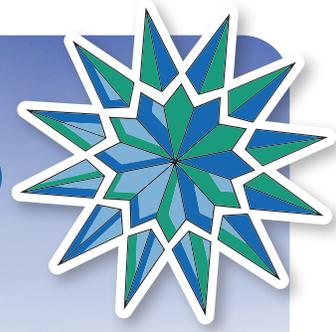


ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL



Love God • Serve Others • Form Disciples

**December 6 & December 7, 2025;
Second Sunday of Advent**

Father Eric's Homily

WORKING TOWARDS A GODLY SOCIETY

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

In the first reading, the Prophet Isaiah prophesies that on that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stock of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. This shoot and the bud referred to in the prophecy is obviously the Messiah, Jesus. In due time, the Messiah was to arise from the house of David. The Messiah was to be the son of David, with whom the covenant of royalty was made, and to whom it was promised with an oath that from his descendants God would raise the Christ. Jesse was the father of David. There is meanness in the appearance of the Messiah. He is called a shoot and a bud. Both words used here signify a weak, small, tender product, that is easily broken off.

This shoot, the Messiah, was to be enveloped by the Holy Spirit. In other word, he was to be every way qualified for the great work to which he was designed.

He was also to be just and righteous in all the acts of his government. His governance was also to be characterized by equity and wisdom: He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

There was to be a great peace and tranquility under his government. Under his government there should be concord and safety. The Messiah was to bring about a society of paradise. In this society the wolf lives with the lamb, the leopard lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, and their young lie together With these words and images, Isaiah wanted to assure the people that the Messiah, the Lord, would establish in the world that peace that reigned in the Garden of Eden before the fall.

Have these prophecies been fulfilled? The Messiah, the Son of David, the shoot from the stock of Jesse, has already sprouted but we realize that these prophecies have not been fully fulfilled. We continue to see hate and violence in the world. We see enmity between individuals, between nations, and among other creatures. The powerful still lord it over the weak, and human rights in many parts of the world are trampled upon. In short, we are far from achieving the harmony and the just order that characterize the society of paradise prophesied by Isaiah.

Christ came to the world bearing all the qualities mentioned by Isaiah, and he carried out his ministry as prophesied by Isaiah; however, the full effect of the Messianic age is far from realization because we have not played our part as people entrusted with the responsibility of representing the society Isaiah prophesied. In the second reading, St Paul tells us that there is hope for us. For St. the words of Isaiah and other scriptural passages should give us hope. The way forward, as St Paul advises, is to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated us: “welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you.”

In the Gospel, John the Baptist tells us what we can do to bring about the Messianic society. He tells us to repent. In other words, he challenges us to make a complete turnabout; to turn from the wrong direction and head towards where God wants us to go. He entreats us to produce the appropriate fruit fit for repentance. John, as the prophet Isaiah foretold, is a voice calling on us to prepare a way for the Lord, and to make his paths straight. The paths in this context are the way to our heart. Straightening the paths of the Lord therefore means renouncing sins, seeking forgiveness from God, and establishing good relationship with God and with one another. As we prepare the paths of the Lord for him to come into our lives, families and Church, we must also help others to prepare the way for the Lord to enter their lives. The Messiah, Jesus, came to the world so many years ago, but he has not yet come to many places and many situations in our societies. Like John, we are supposed to prepare and also to help others to prepare a way for the Lord and to welcome him in their lives.

John asked the people to repent because the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. The kingdom of heaven, or the kingdom of God, as Luke would put it, is a kingdom where God reigns, a kingdom where righteousness abounds, a kingdom where there are true justice, love and peace, a kingdom where the dignity of all and sundry is respected. This is the kingdom or the society we must seek to build as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

When we do this, we can all together build a just and a godly society, a society where we can live in peace and love. May we all in this advent season strive to make our respective hearts, homes and this Church a place where Jesus reigns and a place where true love and peace are experienced.

