

Bible and Beer

December 1, 2020

For Second Sunday of Advent (December 6)

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare
the way of the Lord, make straight in the
desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

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 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

10 See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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 are like one day. **9** The Lord is
not slow about his promise, as some think of
slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting

any to perish, but all to come to
repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come
like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away
with a loud noise, and the elements will be
dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything
that is done on it will be disclosed. **11** Since all
these things are to be dissolved in this way, what
sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives
of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and
hastening the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be set ablaze
and dissolved, and the elements will melt with
fire? **13** But, in accordance with his promise, we
wait for new heavens and a new earth, where
righteousness is at home. **14** Therefore, beloved,
while you are waiting for these things, strive to
be found by him at peace.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus
Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am
sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the
whole Judean countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem were going out to him, and were
baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing
their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's
hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and
he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed,
"The one who is more powerful than I is
coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop
down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I
have baptized you with water; but he will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Questions for Small Group Conversation

- Do you see the readings reflected on our common life today? If so how?
- Do you see the readings reflected in your own personal life? How?
- What do you think of the idea that God's voice speaks in and from the "wilderness"?
- Are there any lessons for the Church in this?
- Have you experienced God's voice in your times of personal wilderness?
- Has anyone been like John the Baptist to you, calling to you in your wilderness times? Who? How?