

Advent II – Year A

What's Happening in Sunday School?

This week's lessons continue the Advent theme of expecting the coming of the Messiah. Particularly the themes of hope and preparation are ones that we see in our readings for this Sunday. This is the hope in the birth of the messiah, the Christ, that the Hebrew people had, but these lessons also tell us about the hope that we are to have, in our waiting for Jesus' second coming as mighty Lord. In our lesson from the prophet Isaiah, we're given a picture of the wonderful peace and justice that will come with the reign of Jesus, the messiah. In this wonderful reign of peace, the poor will be taken care of and not oppressed and even the animals will live together in peace. In our epistle lesson Paul reminds us that all of the promises of the Old Testament, such as the words of Isaiah in our lesson, were written so that we might have hope. Here Paul encourages the Romans to have hope in God's promises and to live in peace with each other already. Finally, in our gospel lesson we're given the image of the prophet John the Baptist, who prepare the way for the coming of Jesus. As a prophet John spoke a message of repentance to the people to prepare for the coming of the messiah. The preaching of John the Baptist reminds us that the message of hope that Christ brings is for those who are prepared for his coming, by repenting of their sins. If we turn from our sins and prepare a place for Christ in humility, then we too can have the peace and hope in his coming. John warns those who refused to repent in humility that, for them, the coming of Christ is a time of judgment.

Digging Deeper

- *How do we prepare the way of the Lord?
- *What Old Testament figure did John the Baptist represent?
- *What did John the Baptist eat?
- *What did John the Baptist tell people to do? Why?

Fun Page



John the Baptist

<http://ministry-to-children.com/john-the-baptist-coloring/>