

Imbued with the  
**WORD**  
we trace out paths  
of hope



**1st Sunday**  
**Stay alert!**

Is. 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 79;  
1Co. 1:3-9; Mk. 13:33-37



**2nd Sunday**  
**Make straight the  
way of the Lord!**

Is. 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps. 84; 2 Pt. 3:8-14;  
Mk. 1:1-8

**3rd Sunday**  
**Rejoice!**

Is. 61:1-2, 10-11; Lk. 1:46-54; 1 Th.  
5:16-24; Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28

**4th Sunday**  
**Here I am!**

2 Sm. 7, 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps. 88;  
Rm. 16:25-27; Lk. 1:26-38

During the Second Week of Advent, we focus our gaze on the person of *Jesus Christ Word*. Only those who know and love the divine Word can fully understand the significance of each creature. Those who build their lives on the Word build in a truly sound and lasting way. Our relationship with Christ, the Word of Life, touches and transforms every aspect of our existence. It is a transformation that we yearn for and seek after—one that makes our daily life an Advent but that requires, in its turn, our commitment to waiting for the Lord in an active way. As human beings, we were created in the Word and we live in the Word; we cannot understand ourselves unless we are open to this dialogue. The Word of God discloses the filial and relational nature of our human existence.

Like the prophet Isaiah, we are called to recognize that the salvation of the Lord is already present—hidden in the course of events that take place without noise or notoriety, above and beyond circumstances—and to proclaim the consolation of the Lord to the poor, the little ones and all those who seek God. The Apostle Peter helps us understand how God transcends our experiences in this world. We cannot reduce the promises of God to our own personal life story because he is more—much more—than that. The words and actions of John the Baptist in the Gospel Reading point out Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, the true Hope of those who accept him; the One who transforms hearts and fulfills their deepest yearnings. The words of John are in perfect accord with what it means to acknowledge Jesus as the Word of the Father.

### Lighting of the First Candle of Advent

*Through their words and deeds,  
the prophets kept hope alive in the People of God.  
As a symbol of this, we light these two candles.  
Darkness still covers the earth  
but the dessicated trunk is beginning to sprout.  
Dawn is approaching; the desert is bursting into bloom.  
Behind every event the Word of God is concealed.  
Why did you want to become one of us,  
to take on our human nature?  
Lord, we want to throw wide to you  
the doors of our existence.  
We want to listen to you obediently  
so that you will sprout and flower in our lives,  
illuminating us with your presence,  
enabling us to bring hope and consolation everywhere.  
Help us to be your letter to the people of today:  
a letter written by your Spirit  
and proclaimed through our words and deeds.  
We need you, Lord Jesus. Come quickly!*

