



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

The current crisis of faith is above all a crisis of hope. But all those pursuing the Advent pilgrimage are called, like Mary, to search for the signs of hope within this crisis. We are urged to take the risk of committing all our energies to this. Tomorrow will have a new face if it re-reflects our hope today. Thus our decisions and activities should be guided by a “trustworthy hope,” hope being the key word. Not a deceptive hope, but one based and built on a new way of looking at life, at the present and at the future. Life—a voyage on the sea of history—is a perennial search for eternal hope. Mary, whose “yes” opened the doors of the world to God, illuminates our journey because she is the “Star of Hope.”

The Word for this Fourth Sunday of Advent points us toward Bethlehem, toward the imminent birth of our Savior. Its accent falls on the announcement of the Incarnation: “You re-vealed to us by an angel the coming of your Son” (Opening Prayer). We also listen to what happened to men and women who, believing in the word of God, said “yes” to him, keeping hope alive down the ages. The sky of this last week of Advent is illuminated by the Virgin Daughter of Zion, who through maternal and fruitful listening transformed the divine promise into gift. What happened to Mary can also happen to us each day as we listen to the Word and celebrate the sacraments.

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent

Lord, in lighting this fourth candle

*we fix our gaze on Mary, virgin and disciple,
a woman strong in faith.*

*Like her, we want to be vigilant and ready
to welcome your unexpected “visitations.”*

We want to let your words move our hearts.

*We want to be docile to your Word of life
and incarnate you in our existence.*

*We ask you to transform us into strong women,
imbued with your presence and filled with tenderness;*

*witnesses of hope in a world
that hungers and thirsts for you.*

With Mary and like Mary,

we want to give you to our brothers and sisters,

offering you to everyone as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Come quickly, Lord. We’re waiting for you!

