



Second Sunday  
of Advent  
2021

Luke 3:1-6

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# Advent

## All humanity will see the salvation of God

Love always reaches the beloved, wherever he or she may be, even in hell, and it always does so gratuitously. And this love that reaches us is an event of beauty, precisely because it is meant to be seen and welcomed. What is even more beautiful, according to the biblical text, is that it is possible for all humanity to see this salvation: every human being, of every religion or even no religion, from every latitude and every time.

The word of God dwells in the *desert* and in people who are *silent*.

“God is supremely indifferent to what human beings construct, but out of love he sends his word to them uncontaminated by civilization, and this word enables them to handle what is to come” (Giovanni Vannucci).

“The less a wise person works (non-action), the more he/she creates,” says the Taoist tradition. The Incarnation takes place in the womb of a woman who “does not work,” who “does not know man.” Fertile virginity is precisely the mystery of an *inhabited void*; it is a readiness to be visited in the midst of non-action.

The *desert* mentioned in Luke’s text is a *non-place*, an existential experience in which everything is reduced to silence and therefore to the possibility of listening.

And here John *baptizes*, that is, he invites people to self-awareness. He asks them to courageously *descend* (symbolized by *immersion* in water) into their inner world, in order to *ascend* to full life, to the possibility of experiencing rebirth (*emersion* from the water).

Only those who know their inner world are able to know God and the world around them.

“Know yourself,” reads an inscription on the entrance to the temple of Apollo at Delphi, and thus you will know both yourself and God.

It is only in the *death-rebirth* process that we experience the *forgiveness of sins*.

If we make this great *inner journey*, if we dwell in the *desert* within ourselves because every foothold (all the images, desires, illusions, etc. in which we placed our hopes for salvation)

has proven useless, then we will connect with *God-in-us* and come to experience the Love capable of shattering sin, our existential defeat.

This is the moment in which “every person will see the salvation of God.”

How wonderful that we are called to *see* salvation, and no longer have to strive to *work out* our salvation. We are already saved; we don’t have to save ourselves.

Taken from the *Homilies* of Fr. Paolo Scquizzato