

Second Week of Advent – Year B

Opening Song: *See table of suggested music.*

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray.
God, our loving Father, as we wait in joyful anticipation for the birth of the Saviour, help us to prepare well. Open our hearts and our minds to be willing to embrace whatever changes we need to make in ourselves. As we light the second candle on our wreath, bless us with a renewed sense of longing and hope in you. We ask this in your most holy name. **Amen.**

Light 2 purple candles.

Leader: Let us listen carefully to God's Word.

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill shall become level,
And the rough places a plane.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all people shall see it together,
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
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."

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm: Psalm 85 (try CBW III # 15, 21, 155 or # 166 or Spirit and Song # 71)

Gospel Acclamation: Choose one that is familiar to your school community.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness;
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”
John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,
Proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins
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.
Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his
waist,
And he ate locusts and wild honey.
He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water;
But he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reflection: *The leader or another adult may now offer a few brief thoughts on the readings and how they connect to the everyday lives of the school community. A few key points you may wish to mention are these:*

- *John the Baptist points the way to Jesus, who points the way to God the Father. We need to pay attention to their messages and change our way of living.*
- *Who are some of the messengers of today? What kind of living are they pointing us towards?*
- *What can we do to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus into our hearts at Christmas?*

Leader: Knowing God’s generous love for all of his people, we confidently place our needs before him.

The response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church throughout the world, working to show God’s love for all people, we pray to the Lord.

For leaders of nations, working towards peace for all, we pray to the Lord.

For all in our community who are in need of God’s healing touch, we pray to the Lord.

For our school community here at _____ School, may we turn towards God with humble hearts, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, you know all of our needs before we know them ourselves. Hear and answer our prayer according to what is best for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

All: Amen.

Leader: Now let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.
Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace and friendship.

Allow a moment for everyone to shake hands.

Leader: Let us pray.
Tender and merciful God, you welcome everyone to the feast of eternal life.
Make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love all the days of
our lives. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

All: Amen.

Leader: And may we be blessed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Closing Song: See table of suggested songs.

CBW III	Spirit and Song
Prepare the Way # 317 Every Valley # 308 Listen, My People # 309 Let Heaven Rejoice # 557 O come, O Come Emmanuel # 312 Be Light for Our Eyes # 305 God of All People # 314	In the Day of the Lord #121 Christ, Be Our Light # 105 City of God # 106 Find Us Ready # 109