

Second Sunday of Advent, Week of December 4

Theme: Preparing a pathway in our lives.

Reading I: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Reading II: 2 Peter 3: 8-14

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Dear Friends in Christ:

In today's second reading we hear that *the day of the Lord will come like a thief*, unexpectedly and without warning. The other readings also speak about the need for us to be prepared for the coming of that day of the Lord, which in fact happens every day of our lives. Last week Jesus told us *Be watchful! Be alert! We do not know when the Master will come*. Four weeks ago we had the parable of the Ten Virgins and the exhortation to *Stay awake!* because *You know neither the day nor the hour*. I shared my own numerous experiences of **not** always being awake and ready while bow hunting, and so being unprepared when deer came by. Would that I had listened to my own preaching! Over the past couple of weeks there have been three more times when I had given up hope and packed up my bow and arrows near the end of the day, only to have deer come trotting by with me completely unprepared. The first time it happened I exclaimed aloud *I just preached about this!* The second time I simply said *When will I ever learn?!* The third time I could only laugh at myself. As we continue our Advent journey and preparation for Christmas, may you all be far better prepared, watchful, alert, and awake than I have been in my hunting efforts!

Fr. Dan