

General Intercessions Second Sunday of Advent (B)

6 December 2020

Introduction:

*O God, be gracious and bless us,
let your face shine upon your people.
Hear then, the prayer we now make
May your help be near for those who trust you.*

(see Ps 84)

Reader:

1. *Lord, you gather your flock like a shepherd, the lambs in your arms:* for the Church (*pause*): that we may strive to be a witnesses of God's joy, hope, and tenderness in our world. *Lord, hear us.*
2. *Lord, your reward is with you:* for all who work to prepare the Lord's way (*pause*): that they have the simplicity, courage, and strength of John the Baptist. *Lord, hear us.*
3. *Every mountain and hill will be made low ...and the rough places a plain:* for the whole world in this time of pandemic (*pause*): that we may genuine reason to hope, and that its real end may come into view. *Lord, hear us.*
4. *The voice cries in the desert:* for all who cry out in the deserts of hunger, violence, exclusion, and loneliness (*pause*): that they may make a way for the Lord, that *justice and peace may embrace. Lord, hear us.*
(see Ps 84)
5. *John says, 'one who is more powerful than I is coming after me':* that our ways of relating and living may make a way for others, and for the Lord—for their gifts, their wonder, their beauty, their *promise. Lord, hear us.*
6. *John says, 'I baptize with water ... he will baptize with Holy Spirit'*—that we may embrace the promise of our baptism (*pause*): for Spirit-filled lives, that Christ may come to birth in us, deeply and gently, day-in-day-out. *Lord, hear us.*

Presider

7. Lord, in these difficult times, we pray for all who are unwell or isolated or afraid; we pray for those who care for them, for those whose livelihoods are threatened; we give thanks for the dedication, skill, and generosity of those in our hospitals and nursing homes—that they know places and times of rest and recovery;

we remember those who have asked us to pray for them,
and our faithful departed (especially): may *your peace may follow their steps*.
Lord, hear us.

With tender comfort and transforming power
you come into our midst,
O God of mercy and might.

Make ready a way in the wilderness,
clear a straight path in our hearts,
that the advent of your Son
may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals.

We this prayer through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.