

A Coffee with Alessio



Prepare the Way of the Lord

This Sunday, John the Baptist is the central character in the Gospel, and we hear one of his most familiar passages in Scripture: "Prepare the Way for the coming of the Lord." That is what Advent is for, to prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas and also for his second coming at the end of time. This Sunday, the music should focus on that central theme of preparing the way of the Lord. There are a number of hymns that are based on this passage from Scripture. An excellent text with a great "martial tune" is "The Voice of God" (see CWB #835; CWBII #621 or GA #476). The second verse says the following:

'The Lord has said: "Receive my messenger,
my promise to the world made flesh,
a lamp to ev'ry nation, light from light".'

Indeed, John preached a message that not everyone understood, didn't want to understand or worse still didn't want to listen to. In our day and age, we are the "Lord's messengers" and we must help others prepare for Christ's coming through our involvement in liturgical ministry. We will again hear about John the Baptist next Sunday, so you could repeat some of the music from this Sunday again next Sunday.

I don't often focus on the Second Reading in my column. During the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter the Second Reading (on Sunday) relates to the First Reading and the Gospel Reading. During Ordinary Time that is not always the case. I think that is a shame, but a reordering of the readings chosen for the Lectionary is a topic for another time. Anyhow, back to the Second Reading for this Sunday. In his Letter to the Philippians Saint Paul tells them that he is praying for them with joy. We too, must pray for each other with joy and live out our faith and liturgical ministry with love and joy. I'm sure you are familiar with the hymn by Frank Andersen "I Thank My God". Well, that hymn is based on the forementioned passage of Scripture.

Now, school closes for the students today, and for the staff next week. I know the column doesn't usually get written in holidays. However, the column will keep going for two more weeks after today. The final column for 2018 will be published on Friday 21 December.

I hope you enjoy your coffee. Something simple like an apple and cinnamon muffin seems appropriate to me today during this time of Advent. May your presence at Mass this weekend give you an opportunity to be the “Lord’s messenger” in your faith community.

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