

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

- *From the archives of Monsignor John J. Gilchrist December 10, 1995*

We continue to hear the reading from the prophet Isaiah. The Messiah was to spring from the root of Jesse, who was the father of King David. All of those attributes which are good and holy were to be embodied in this great Messiah. He would possess all the characteristics of those who were great in Israel. Isaiah spoke of a time when “paradise” would be restored.

We hear of the vision of that time: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra’s den, and the child shall lay his hand on the adder’s lair.” In other words, there will be universal peace and harmony in the land – it will be paradise regained.

In the gospel passage we listen to the account of John the Baptist’s appearance at the Jordan River. He began to preach among the people on the necessity of repentance for sin and turning back to God. “Prepare the way of the Lord!” became his cry. John lived a life of prayer, fasting and absolute penance. Like Jesus who was to come after him, John spoke out

against the Pharisees and the Sadducees whom he called “a brood of vipers!” John was the herald announcing the approach of the long-awaited messiah. That was his only ambition in life, and he carried it out with complete dedication. There was no wavering or self-consideration in John. Nor did he seek any recognition for himself.

During this holy season of Advent, the call of John should be heard once again in all the lands of the earth. He called the people and urged them to return to God, to straighten the pathways of their lives so that the Lord would be able to enter into their lives and establish peace within them. Our world is sadly in need of that message today for we are painfully aware of the many conflicts, divisions and wars that are being waged today. And not only do these problems exist among nations but also within countries and families. The harmony of which the prophet Isaiah spoke seems so far out of reach – an impossible dream. And yet the Lord Jesus came to show us the way to peace and harmony and happiness. God has never failed His people – His people have often failed God.

### 将临期第二主日（12/04/2022）

- 摘自 John J. Gilchrist 蒙席案卷，1995年12月10日

今天我们继续聆听先知依撒意亚。默西亚是由叶瑟的的树根而发的幼芽，叶瑟的树根即指达味王。所有的优秀和圣洁的特质都在默西亚的身上体现出来。他拥有卓越以色列人所有的优良品质。依撒意亚先知也提到有朝一日“乐园”将会恢复。

我们听到那对乐园的展望：“豺狼将与羔羊共处；虎豹将与小山羊同宿。牛犊和幼狮一同饲食；一个幼童即可带领牠们。母牛和母熊将一起牧放；牠们的幼雏将一同伏卧。狮子将与牛一样吃草。吃奶的婴儿将游戏于蝮蛇的洞口；断奶的幼童将伸手探入毒蛇的窝穴。”换句话说，那片土地上充满平安和祥和 - 乐园将重新获得。

在今天的福音中我们聆听出现在约旦河畔洗者若翰的宣告。他在人群中讲道并告诫人们悔罪和皈依上主的必要性。

“预备上主的道路”变成他的呐喊。若翰过着一个祈祷，守斋，和绝对悔过的生活。就像在他之后而来的耶稣一样，若翰对法利塞人和撒杜塞人提出抨击，说他们是“毒蛇的种类”若翰宣告了等待许久的默西亚的即将来临。这是他唯一的人生目标，也是他全力以赴想要做的事。他完全没有考虑自己，更没有寻求知名。

在这神圣的降临期内，洗者若翰的声音应该在世界上的每一个角落都被听到。他敦促人们皈依上主，并修直他们生活的路，这样好让上主进入他们的生活，并为他们带来平安。很悲哀我们现今的世界有很多冲突，分裂和战争，我们非常需要洗者若翰的信息。这些问题不仅在国家间存在，

也在国家内和家庭中存在。先知依撒意亚所预言的祥和似乎离我们很遥远，一个不可能实现的梦。但耶稣基督来到这个世界为我们指明了平安，祥和和喜乐的路。上主从来不负祂的子民，倒是祂的子民常辜负上主。