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## Homily Reflections – Luke 3:1-6 – Second Sunday of Advent

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### Introduction: Prepare the Way of the Lord!

On this second week of Advent, the Sunday's Gospel introduces us to John the Baptist and sets the stage for the following Sunday, when we will focus on John's ministries. The passage begins with a careful dating scheme that includes a number of important religious and political figures from the end of the first century BC through the beginning of the first century AD.

As with the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-3), Luke situates John the Baptist within a geopolitical framework involving the Roman emperor and his Palestine-Jewish states. With the mention of the high priests, Annas and Caiaphas, Luke grounds the Baptist's ministry within the history of Jewish Palestine.

Why does Luke mention these people and places? To highlight that the story of John the Baptist and of Jesus is really historical—and to begin setting the stage for the announcement and unfolding of Jesus' public ministry—a Jesus who lived in a particular place and at a particular moment in history. Jesus is for real – or in contemporary slang, “the real thing.”

After carefully setting this historical stage, Luke introduces a major player in God's divine drama, John the Baptist, who was chosen to announce the coming of Jesus: the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior King. “Prepare a way for the Lord,” he calls out – and his words are equally meant for us as for the people he directly spoke to.

*“Prepare a way for the Lord.” What does this call mean for you?*

John announced three major themes: *baptism* (a symbolic ritual washing); *repentance* (a letting go of the chains of sin and evil); and *forgiveness* (a dropping off of burdens). Essentially, he was inviting people throughout “the whole region of the Jordan” to reconciliation, for healing – to be made whole.

*Where do you need to be healed – be made whole?*

As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for his coming.

I would invite you to take time to read and ponder the words from the *Gospel of Luke* 3:1-6.

What word or words caught your attention?  
What in this passage comforted/challenged you?

**Further Questions and Reflections:**

We are always invited to open ourselves to further conversion, to a deeper listening of what Jesus is asking of us. *Lord, what do you want me to do/be?*

John began his mission in the wilderness, as Jesus was to do. We each have a wilderness inside us, a place of testing. It is a place of encounter with ourselves, with our inner demons, and with God. *Have you ever experienced a “wilderness” in you?*

The paths I follow are often crooked, diverting me from my eternal goal. *What can I do to make my path to God straight? Name it.*

*When have I felt like a voice crying in the desert?*

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