

December 9, 2007  
Sunday of the Second Week of Advent

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

*There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea.*

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*

As I prayed with today's readings, my struggle with impatience became clear to me. The prayers of waiting are the hardest to pray. I want the end result. I want justice and peace to be in our midst right now. Jesus' message seems clear enough, why can't we live it? Why do we continue to fall into selfish attitudes and behaviors? I realized my impatience when I read an Advent hint that suggested we don't decorate the Christmas tree—just yet. Internally, I argued with that suggestion. I felt a bit of emptiness thinking of my house barren of the decorations that make Christmas so festive. I thought about how much I enjoy the lights and decorations throughout the entire month of December. The thought of waiting was a let down. I felt a bit cheated of the joy of the season. I was quite surprised by my feelings and reactions. I simply did not/do not want to wait. I was not connecting with the grace of waiting. This might be why I have never really connected with John the Baptist. His entire ministry was one in which he asked the people to wait and prepare. He came before Jesus simply to let people know that they needed to get ready, something big was coming. He wanted to stir in them the sense of longing that we rarely get in touch with in a world so accustomed to immediate gratification. I realized, as I prayed with these readings, that longing has been something to be satisfied rather than something to be experienced. If I can identify the longing, then I can figure out how to satisfy it. Today, I hear the invitation to simply sit in the feeling. I hear the invitation to allow the feeling of longing grow in my heart and soul, to savor it and immerse myself in it. To allow myself to wait, to be patient with what is not yet a reality holds within itself a lesson about life that I have yet to learn. So, my prayer for this week is simply a prayer of longing...

*Come, Lord Jesus.*