**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ December 7, 2014**

*Sr. Elyse Staab, DC*

*Vincentian Family Ministry*

**Readings:** Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

Ps. 85: 9-14

2 Peter 3: 8-14

 Mark 1: 1-8

**Reflection:** Today’s readings invite us to repentance and the peace that comes to those who trust in the Lord. As you pray the Word of God today, let the words of Scripture leap from the pages and speak to your heart.

 **Isaiah**: **Comfort**, give comfort to my people….Speak **tenderly**…proclaim to her that **her service is at an end**, **her guilt is** **expiated**…**Prepare** the way…**fear not**…**here is your God**...Like a shepherd he **feeds** his flock; in his arms he **gathers** the lambs, **carrying them** **in his bosom**, and **leading** the ewes with care.

 **Psalm 85**: The Lord gives **peace** to his people…**kindness and truth** shall meet…**justice and peace** shall kiss…the **Lord himself** will give his benefits…

 **2 Peter**: The Lord **does not delay** his promise… he is **patient**…not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to **repentance**.

 **Mark 1: 1-8:** **Prepare** the way of the Lord, **make straight** his paths…One mightier than I is coming after me. **I am not worthy** to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

 Advent is a time of longing and waiting for the Lord. How do these readings awaken this theme of longing and waiting in you? What is it that you long for? Deeply long for? Have you thought of making a list of these deep hungers and asking the Lord to respond to them?

**Prayer:** God of newness, Lord of change, keep us faithful to the process of life that bids us to grow – to be holy and whole.

Continue to bring us to that quiet place within, and, there, show us who we are – not to condemn us but to offer the hospitality of fullness and life.

 Grant that we may yield to the sands of time that sift through our hearts – softening edges and rubbing us smooth…that we might be a better fit in the palm of your hand. Amen. *Sr. Anita M. Constance, S.C.*

**Try This Today:** Make a list of the people in your life who “prepared a way for the Lord”. Recall the times, places, words spoken, example given…in what way did these messengers of God help and support you? Say a prayer of gratitude for them. How might you be a messenger for others this Advent? Jot down a few people who might need your assistance in some way, and plan how you will respond to them.