Jesus said to his disciples. "Stay awake! Keep watch! You do not know the day when your Lord will come. But you can be sure of this. If the owners of a house knew at what time a thief would be coming, they would stay awake and keep watch. They would not allow the thief to break into their house.

GOD'S WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A Adapted from Matthew 24:42-44



We Listen

What do you think Jesus meant when he told his friends, "Be ready"? What might the friends have done?

We Reflect	
How would you get	
ready for a special	
guest to come to you?	
What feelings	
would you have	
as you wait for your guest?	
, 0	
We Respond	
What would you like	
to do to prepare for	
the celebration of Jesus' coming?	
What might please	
Jesus most?	
PSALM 85	Lord, show us your kindness. Grant us your salvation.

At that time John the Baptist went out to the desert of Judea, and spoke out to the people who followed him, "Change your lives! The reign of God is near!"

He spoke like the one of whom Isaiah the prophet said: "There will be a voice of one calling in the desert. 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him!'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair and he had a leather belt around his waist.

His food was locusts and wild honey.

People from the city and that whole area went out to the desert to see him.

They confessed their sins, and John baptized them in the Jordan River.

John told them: "I baptize you with water so you may change your lives. But after me someone who is more powerful than I am will come. I am not worthy even to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

GOD'S WORD

Wa Raflact

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A Adapted from Matthew 3:1-6,11



We Listen

Imagine you were in the crowd that went out to the desert to see John the Baptist. What do you hear John say?

VVC HOROCI	
What do John's	
words say to you	
about Jesus?	
What do John's	
words say to you	
about yourself?	
about youroun.	
Ma Daggard	
We Respond	
How will you make	
your heart ready	
for Jesus?	
What will you	
change?	
O	
PSALM 72	When the Lord comes, justice shall flourish
	and fullness of peace forever
	L COLUMNIESS OF DECLE TOTEVEL

1

God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth, to a maiden engaged to a man named Joseph. The maiden's name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." Mary was deeply troubled; she wondered what he meant. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will have a son, whom you will name Jesus." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am not married?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you. Your holy child will be called the Son of God. Your cousin, Elizabeth, is also going to have a baby, although she may seem too old. For nothing is impossible with God." And Mary answered, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me as you have said."

GOD'S WORD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION December 8 Adapted from Luke 1:26-38



We Listen

How do you think Mary felt when the angel told her that her baby would be the Son of God? What might she have said to her parents?

We Reflect	
Think of a time	
when you made a difficult choice.	
What was that like	
for you?	
We Respond	
Mary placed her	
trust in God. How	
can the example of Mary help you when	
you have a difficult	
choice in the future?	
MAGNIFICAT	My soul proclaims the Lord's greatness
IVIAGINIFICAT	My soul proclaims the Lord's greatness and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

6

After the wise men had left Bethlehem, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to Egypt.

Stay there until I tell you.

Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him."

Joseph got up and with the child Jesus and Mary, his mother, traveled to Egypt by night. They stayed there until Herod died.

Then the angel of the Lord appeared once more to Joseph in a dream.

"Get up," the angel said.

"Take the child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel,
for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

They returned to the land of Israel and made their home in Galilee, in a town called Nazareth.

ethlehem, GOD'S WORD and said,

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE December 12 Adapted from Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



We Listen

How would you describe Joseph's feelings when the angel told him to take his family to a safe country?

We Reflect	
What is it like for	
What is it like for you to know God	
protects you even	
though what God might ask of you	
is difficult?	
We Respond	
What are some	
ways in which you can show your trust	
in God's care for	
you, especially in difficult times?	
difficult tiffles:	

PSALM 98

9

Sing to the Lord a new song. For God has done marvelous deeds. When John the Baptist was in prison, he heard about the things Jesus was doing.

So he sent his followers to ask him: "Are you the Messiah we have been waiting for, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus said to them, "Go back and tell John what you hear and see:

People who were blind can see, people who were lame can walk, people who had leprosy are healed, people who were dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor."

Then Jesus asked:

"What did you go out to the desert to see?
A reed blown by the wind? No?
A man dressed in fine clothes? No? A prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
John was the one about whom the Scriptures say:
'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'"

GOD'S WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A Adapted from Matthew 11:2-6



We Listen

If you were one of John's messengers, how would you have felt about what Jesus told you to tell John?

We Reflect	
In what ways are the words of Jesus still	
coming true today?	
Who are helping the	
blind to see, the lame to walk, the	
sick to be healed	
and so forth?	
We Respond	
What would the	
world be like if the healing love of	
Jesus touched	
everyone?	
In what way might you bring healing	
to another?	
PSALM 146	Lord Jesus, come, save us. Heal us. Set us free.

10