

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year C

Friday was DEC 7 – Pearl Harbor

US Vet met a Japanese at USS Arizona shrine “I am Japanese” (fear) “I am so sorry”

Forgiveness

Who have you forgiven lately? Who do you need forgiveness from?

John the Baptist comes announcing a *Baptism of Repentance for forgiveness of sins*.

He is a voice, crying in the wilderness

Jesus is the Word

John prepares the way

Jesus is the Way

How does John prepare the way of the Lord

He brings a message of repentance – and salvation is revealed.

The truth is:

Repentance is our work

Forgiveness is God’s work

Our work is turning toward God who embraces us in mercy

(Prodigal Son – and the father runs to him for his embrace)

(Covered in the father’s cloak)

(Covered in the blood of Jesus)

While I’m overwhelmed by God’s love and mercy for ME – *there’s more*

St. Luke quotes Isaiah

EVERY mountain will be made low

EVERY valley shall be filled

ALL flesh shall see the salvation of God

With Jesus – nobody is left behind

So with Baruch we pray “Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery”

“Put on the splendor of the glory from God forever”

“You will be named Peace of Justice – glory of God’s worship”

“Andros/AUTEC – take off your robe of mourning & misery”

“**WE** will be named the glory of God’s worship”

When?

When we listen to John the Baptist – turn from sin & toward Jesus

When we are covered with mercy of God

Just like Prodigal was covered with his father’s cloak.

- Like the Prodigal – we have to turn back to our Father

- Like the Prodigal – we have to surrender

- Like the Prodigal – we’ll be forgiven, and welcomed home

Jesus is coming. He came in Bethlehem, He’s coming again.

Are you ready?