

Second Sunday of Advent

Christ, The Messiah

“The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead rise, the poor have the gospel preached to them” (Matt., 11:5)

For many centuries after the fall of our first parents the world looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, the Redeemer promised by the Creator to our first parents after they had transgressed God’s law in the Garden of Paradise. The promise then made was remembered, not only by the Jews but also by many pagan nations, although in the course of time their ideas of the coming Redeemer were mingled with legends.

However, through the prophecies which He granted to His chosen people from time to time God informed the Jews of the characteristics of the future Messiah with ever-increasing clearness. His **birth** in Bethlehem of a virgin, His **sufferings** and humiliations, etc., were revealed in the sacred writings.

The prophet **Isaias** made known the fact that the Redeemer would perform wonderful miracles, such as the cure of the sick. It is this text which Our Lord Himself repeated to the messengers sent by John the Baptist with the question: ***“Art thou he who is to come?”*** Christ asserted the great and wonderful deeds He had performed—the restoration of sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf, the cleansing of lepers, the resurrection of the dead to life, etc. It was as if he said: ***“By these signs which God would grant only to a true speaker the Almighty proclaims that I am truly the Messiah, the one who will save men from their sins.”***

With the passing of the centuries these miraculous deeds of Jesus Christ have not lost their power to prove that He is in truth the Messiah, the world’s Redeemer. The miracles of Christ can be proved to be authentic historical facts, surpassing all the powers of nature; hence, they give an unquestionable proof that Our Lord is the Redeemer promised by the Almighty from the beginning of the human race.

Only by **accepting** Him, by believing His teachings, and obeying His laws will the world find the way to peace and to happiness. The reason why there is so much discord and misery in the world today is that so many, especially among those who possess great authority over their fellow men, have rejected Jesus Christ, His message, and His Church.

Practical Application

Conforming to the spirit of the Church, during this holy Advent time, let us look forward eagerly to the feast of Christmas when we can rekindle our **faith in Our Lord** as the **Saviour** of the world, and the promised One, in whom alone individuals and nations can find the solution of their problems. The feast of Mary’s **Immaculate Conception** should remind us of her great dignity and holiness as the Mother of the Messiah.