

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Advent Year A Week 2

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. Four candles in the Advent colours of mauve or blue could be arranged on the stand. The first candle will be lit before the liturgy. Light the second candle from the first as the Leader begins.

Leader: Open our hearts and mind to your word, O God.
All: And we will taste your goodness and mercy.

We Listen: The Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit." Matthew 3; 8

Commentary:

This is an upfront challenge by John to be real about a commitment to see things from God's perspective. The scripture writers indicate that Jesus will have this perspective—a kingdom outlook in every fibre of his being. Advent is a chance for us to look at the mystery of God's birth at Christmas as an opportunity to change our worldview. That's what the word 'repentance' must mean to us: we must see a new goal and a new approach to achieve it. The goal is that God's love life of justice and peace will become the world's *raison d'être*: the approach is to put on the mind of Christ and really mean it. Day by day we can produce fruit that will feed a world starving for hope and security.

We Respond: "Repentance will produce appropriate fruit."

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- How has this Gospel verse changed my understanding of the word 'repentance'?
- What are some of the worldview attitudes I have that Jesus would challenge?
- What is the appropriate fruit that I wish to produce, in my relationships, in my work?

Song: A New Heart for a New World (T Watts/M O'Brien-AOV1)
or Jesus Face of God (James Maher-Gospel of Love-Chevalier Institute)

We Go Forth:

God you urge us to look with integrity and with trust on the face of Christ, the honest One, the faithful One. From the rough land of our doubts and failures, you desire to bring us to a home marked by honesty, openness and acceptance of ourselves as we are. May we grow as people who reflect the truth of your love to a world, waiting for hope in the wilderness of human frailty. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us go and live with the mind of Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.