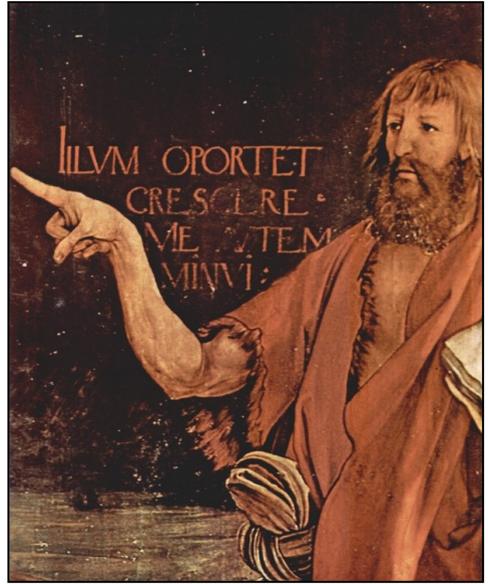


Day 3

Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 1.2b-3

Major events require major preparation. Good preparation not only ensures the event goes off well, but it focuses everybody involved.

God had long been preparing for the sending of his Son into the world. At the time of the Fall he had announced that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head (Gen 3.15). To Abraham he had promised that through him (i.e. his seed) all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Gen 12.3). Moses prophesied "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you... it is to him you shall listen...", to which God added "and whoever will not listen to my word that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him" (Deut 18.15-19).



Then the words of the prophet Isaiah speak specifically of one coming immediately prior to the Messiah, a forerunner, who would make the final preparations.

This leaves no room for doubt that God meant Israel to be well prepared and to give his Son the welcome, honour and glory due an earthly king, and – how much more – to the heavenly King of kings.

We are told many times in Scripture that this same Jesus will one day come again – and that we must be ready!

? Lenten preparation is intended to help us focus on the person and work of Jesus, and particularly his death, resurrection and ascension. How will you sharpen your focus?

 Lord God, as we pray “your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven”, we long for your return in glory. Meanwhile help us to live and work as faithful servants of your kingdom, so that we might be found ready when you come. In our Lord Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.