

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A

Season of Advent

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year B

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year C

First Reading † Isaiah 35:1-6.10

God himself will come and save us.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the desert and the arid lands be glad,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom;
let it burst into flower like the crocus,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to the faint-hearted,
'Be strong! Do not be afraid.

Here is your God,
vengeance is coming, divine retribution;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame will leap like a deer
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

Those ransomed by the Lord shall return
and come to Zion shouting for joy,
crowned with joy unending;
rejoicing and gladness will escort them
and sorrow and sighing will take flight.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial # Psalm 145:6-10

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry;
the Lord who sets prisoners free.

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who protects the stranger
and upholds the orphan and the widow.

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who loves the righteous,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God from age to age.

Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading # James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

A reading from the letter of St James

Now be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how a farmer waits patiently for the precious fruit of the earth until it receives the autumn rain and the spring rain. You too must be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming is near.

Do not make complaints against one another, brothers and sisters, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; see, the judge is standing at the gates. For your example of patience in persecution take the prophets who spoke in the Lord's name.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation # Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel # Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now John had heard in prison what the Messiah was doing and he sent his disciples to ask Jesus,

‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?’

Jesus answered,

‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life and the good news is proclaimed to the poor; and blessed is anyone who does not find me a cause of stumbling.’

As the men were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John,

‘What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swaying in the breeze?

Then what did you go out to see? Someone wearing fine clothes?

Look, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in royal palaces.

‘Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one of whom it is written:

Look, I am going to send my messenger ahead of you to prepare the way before you.

‘Amen I say to you, of the children born to women, none has been raised up greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of Heaven is greater than he.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Monday of the third week of Advent