

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year B

Season of Advent

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A | Monday of the third week of Advent | 17 December | 18 December

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year C

First Reading † Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of Lord God is on me
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted,
to soothe the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to captives,
release to those in prison,
to proclaim a year of the Lord's favour.

I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in a cloak of saving justice,
like a bridegroom wearing his garland,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

For as the earth sends up its shoots
and a garden makes seeds flourish,
so the Lord God makes saving justice and praise
flourish in the sight of all nations.

The word of the Lord.

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
since he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
For see, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

My soul rejoices in my God.

For the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name,
and his mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him.

My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the help of Israel his servant,
in remembrance of his mercy.

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading # 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Always be joyful; pray constantly; in every situation give thanks; this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not stifle the Spirit or treat prophecy with contempt; test everything and hold fast to what is good, and *shun every form of evil*.

May the God of peace sanctify you fully; and may your spirit, life and body be kept blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who has called you is trustworthy and will carry it out.

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 # John 1:6-8,19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a man sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,
to bear witness to the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,
he was to bear witness to the light.

This is the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?'

He declared, he did not deny but declared,

'I am not the Messiah.'

So they asked,

'What then? Are you Elijah?'

He replied,

'I am not.'

'Are you the Prophet?'

He answered, 'No.'

So they said to him,

'Who are you? So that we may give an answer to those who sent us.
What do you say about yourself?'

So he said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

*A voice of one that cries in the desert:
prepare a way for the Lord.'*

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees, and they put a question to him and said,

'Why then are you baptising if you are not the Messiah nor Elijah nor the Prophet?'

John answered them,

'I baptise with water; but among you is standing one whom you do not know,
the one who is coming after me; and I am not worthy to undo the strap of his sandal.'

This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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