Sunday, December 13, 2026
Third Sunday of Advent

Prayer for the Morning

The Lord comes to rule the earth:
let us give thanks and praise!
Glory to the Father…Amen. Alleluia

Hymn — Meter: LM

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.
Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
Make straight the way of God within,
And let each heart prepare a home
Where such a mighty Guest may come.

Canticle — Zephaniah 3:14-18a

He was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. (Jn 5:35)

John holds the lamp by which we see Jesus as the light of the world. He does not allow himself to cast any shadow on the Good News of the coming he proclaims: he stands out of the way and draws all the attention to the promised Christ. In Christ, not in ourselves, lies the source of all our joy in this Advent season – and always!

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!
sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has removed the judgment against you,
he has turned away your enemies;
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
He will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.

Glory to the Father

Word of God — Acts 13:24-25

John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet."

He must increase; I must decrease. (Jn 3:30)

Canticle of Zechariah

For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus. (2 Cor 4:5)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father…

Intercessions

Let us pray in hope to Christ, who makes all things right:

R/Come to rule the earth!

Your coming fulfills the world's longing: – make our lives a witness to your presence and your promise. R/

Your coming brings rejoicing for all who love you: – make our joy a shining lamp for all who are without hope of joy. R/

Your coming makes right all that is wrong: – make us bearers of your Good News. R/

Personal intentions

Our Father....

O God of all good, you sent John the Baptist to announce the Good News of Christ's coming. Send us to live lives illumined by the Gospel, that we too may be a source of joy in your promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

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Reading 1 Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,/ because the Lord has anointed me;/ he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,/ to heal the brokenhearted,/ to proclaim -liberty to the captives/ and release to the prisoners,/ to announce a year of favor from the Lord/ and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,/ in my God is the joy of my soul;/ for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation/ and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,/ like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,/ like a bride bedecked with her jewels./ As the earth brings forth its plants,/ and a garden makes its growth spring up,/ so will the Lord God make justice and praise/ spring up before all the nations.

Reading 2 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,/ 'make straight the way of the Lord,'/ as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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