

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
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.

Psalm

96:10-13

I will remove disaster from among you,/ so that none may recount your disgrace. (Zep 3:18)

John announces the coming of the Messiah who will burn away in the fire of the Spirit – the fire of God's love – all that hides God's goodness in this world. Let us open our lives to his cleansing power as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of our redemption.

Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."
The world he made firm in its place;
he will judge the peoples in fairness.
Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father.

Word of God

Isaiah 61:1

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 lowly,/ to heal the
brokenhearted,/ To proclaim liberty to the
captives/ and release to the prisoners.

And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most
High,/ for you will go before the Lord to prepare
his ways. (Lk 1:76)

Canticle of Zechariah

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (Mt 11:11)

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 will come to make 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 hope to those who suffer:

– make our lives a witness to your compassionate love. **R/**

Your coming brings freedom to those who endure amid falsehoods of every kind:

– make our lives a witness to your truth. **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

O God of all good, you sent your Son to bring sight to the sightless, healing to the wounded, cleansing to the unclean, hearing to the deaf, life to those condemned to death. Make your Church a living proclamation of your rule, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

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Reading 1 **Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10**

The desert and the parched land will exult;/ the steppe will rejoice and bloom./ They will bloom with abundant flowers,/ and rejoice with joyful song./ The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,/ the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;/ they will see the glory of the Lord,/ the splendor of our God./ Strengthen the hands that are feeble,/ make firm the knees that are weak,/ say to those whose hearts are frightened:/ Be strong, fear not!/ Here is your God,/ he comes with vindication;/ with divine re-compense/ he comes to save you./ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,/ the ears of the deaf be cleared;/ then will the lame leap like a stag,/ then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return/ and enter Zion singing,/ crowned with everlasting joy;/ they will meet with joy and gladness,/ sorrow and mourning will flee.

Reading 2 **James 5:7-10**

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;/ he will prepare your way before you.

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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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