

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
**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**

**47**

*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.*

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear  
great king over all the earth.  
He subdues peoples under us  
and nations under our feet.  
Our inheritance, our glory, is from him,  
given to Jacob out of love.  
God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.  
God is king of all the earth,  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples are assembled  
with the people of Abraham's God.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God,  
to God who reigns over all.

Glory to the Father...

**Word of God**

**Malachi 3:1**

Lo, I am sending my messenger/ to prepare the way before me;/ And suddenly there will come to the temple/ the Lord whom you seek,/ And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire./ Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

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, whose coming sows seeds of rejoicing in all the world:

**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/**

Your coming brings joy to all peoples: – make our lives a witness to the Good News of -redemption. **R/**

### **Personal intentions**

**Our Father....**

*O God of all good, you sent your Son to bring sight to the sightless, healing to the hurt, 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** **Zephaniah 3:14-18a**

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.

**Reading 2** **Philippians 4:4-7**

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be

known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel** **Luke 3:10-18**

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

### **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!

*Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat.*