

**SUNDAY, December 13, 2020**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

The Lord comes to rule the earth: let us give thanks and praise!

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever, 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 of 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.

**Mass**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Reading** 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 good news to the oppressed to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of Prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**Gospel** John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the Prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among

you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place 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!

*Prayer text used with permission of Magnificat*