

3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

Liturgical Colour: Rose or Violet.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Collect

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,

then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145(146):6-10

R/ Come, Lord, and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free, *R/*
 2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. *R/*
 3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *R/*
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Second reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think
of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious
fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains
and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do
not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be
soon. Do not make complaints against one another,
brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement
yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at
the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting
with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Is61:1(Lk4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Is 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray,

be offered to you unceasingly,

to complete what was begun in sacred mystery

and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We implore your mercy, Lord,

that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults

and prepare us for the coming feasts.

Through Christ our Lord.

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