

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

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, God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

Is 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 in their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them  
and sorrow and lament be ended.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps 145:6-10

Response:

**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.)**

**SECOND READING**

Jm 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.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia! alleluia!**  
**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.**  
**He has sent me to bring good news to the**  
**poor. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mt 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.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God,**  
**the Father almighty,**  
**maker of heaven and earth,**  
**of all things visible and invisible.**  
**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**the Only Begotten Son of God,**  
**born of the Father before all ages.**  
**God from God, Light from Light,**  
**true God from true God,**  
**begotten, not made, consubstantial with**  
**the Father;**  
**through him all things were made.**  
**For us men and for our salvation**  
**he came down from heaven,**  
*(all bow during the next three lines)*  
**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the**  
**Virgin Mary,**  
**and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

**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.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not**  
**fear.**  
**Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

**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.  
**Amen.**

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The liturgical season of Advent has a twofold  
character. We think of it first of all as a time  
to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first  
coming among us in human form will be  
remembered. Second, it is the season that  
prepares our minds and hearts for Christ's  
second coming at the end of time. The main  
note of our Advent liturgy is therefore devout  
and joyful expectation.

# Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year A • 14 December 2025 • Colour: Rose or Violet • Psalter Week 3



## ARE YOU THE ONE?

MATTHEW 11:2-11

This Gospel reading offers a rich moment of transition between the Old Testament expectation and the New Testament fulfilment. John the Baptist, representing the prophetic tradition of Israel, sends his disciples to Jesus with a pivotal question: "Are you the one who is to come?" His inquiry is not necessarily one of disbelief, but of seeking confirmation — asking whether Jesus truly fulfils the hopes spoken by the prophets.

Rather than offering a direct claim, Jesus points to His works. His answer echoes Isaiah's prophecies: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor receive good news. These are not random miracles, but signs that the long-awaited time of salvation has begun. Jesus allows the Scriptures to speak for Him.

The passage also offers a reflection on John's role. Though imprisoned and perhaps confused, John is praised by Jesus as the greatest among those born of women.

This Gospel encourages us to recognise how Jesus fulfils God's promises, not in dramatic displays, but in merciful action, quiet healing, and good news shared with the lowly.

This passage teaches us that God's work often unfolds differently than expected — and that recognising the signs requires humility, faith, and patience. ■

## REFLECT

John the Baptist is in prison. He had spent his life preparing the way for the Messiah, but now, facing death, he begins to wonder: Is Jesus truly the one? So he sends messengers to ask, and Jesus answers not with a simple yes or no, but with evidence: "The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News proclaimed to them."

Jesus is quietly fulfilling the words of Isaiah — not with spectacle or force, but with mercy, healing, and hope. This is God's way: humble, patient, and often surprising. John had imagined something more dramatic, but Jesus reveals a kingdom built on compassion, not domination.

This Gospel is perfect for Gaudete Sunday — the Sunday of joy. Not a shallow or noisy joy, but the deep joy that comes from knowing that God is truly at work, even when we don't fully understand His ways.

When we face doubt, disappointment, or delay, Jesus invites us to look again. Where is mercy happening? Where is grace quietly at work?

Today, we rejoice not because everything is perfect, but because Christ is near. And wherever He is, healing and hope are never far behind. ■

## SAY

When I'm unsure,  
Lord, give me peace.  
When I can't see clearly,  
let me still follow You.  
Let Your quiet grace be enough  
for today.  
Amen.

## LEARN

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 548) teaches:

*"The signs worked by Jesus attest that the Father has sent him. They invite belief in him. But for those who turn to him in faith, he grants what they ask. So miracles strengthen faith in the One who does his Father's works."*

## DO

Take time each day to notice small signs of goodness — moments of kindness, healing, or encouragement — in your home, parish, or community. At the end of each day, thank God for one way His quiet work was visible.