

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023
Order of Service, Readings, and Prayer

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023**

THE GATHERING

Welcome	
Prelude By Handbells	“Bring A Torch” “O Come All Ye Faithful” “Carol of the Bells”
*Confession and Forgiveness	p. 94
*Hymn <i>“Blessed Be The God of Israel”</i>	No. 250
*Greeting & Kyrie	p. 138
*Canticle of Praise	p. 139
*Prayer of the Day	Insert
<i>Lighting of the Third Advent Candle</i>	

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading –	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11	
Psalm 126 (read responsively)		Insert
Second Reading	1 Thessalonian’s 5:16-24	
*The Gospel Acclamation		p. 142
*Holy Gospel	John 1:6-8,19-28	
Children’s Message	Rev. Tim Kneuss	
Noisy Sunday – Prevent Child Abuse Rowan		

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Message	Rev. Tim Kneuss
Choir Anthems	“Will We Know Him?” “Who Could’ve Dreamed” “What Child is This?” “He Shall Reign Forevermore” (<i>Cong. Sing last verse INSERT</i>) “Adore”
*Hymn <i>“Joy To The World”</i>	No. 267
*The Apostles’ Creed	back of hymnal
*Blessing of Offerings	
*The Prayers of Intercession	p. 143
P: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.	
*The Lord’s Prayer - Traditional	p. 145

SENDING

Parish Announcements	
*The Blessing	p. 146
*Sending Song	
*The Dismissal	p. 146

****The Congregation will stand in reverence.***



Today's Readings

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Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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;
²to proclaim the year of the
LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of
our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn
in Zion—
to give them a garland instead
of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a
faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display
his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former
devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their
recompense,
and I will make an everlasting
covenant with them.

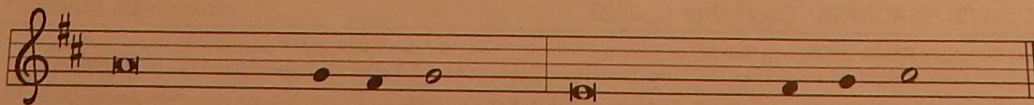
⁹Their descendants shall be known
among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD
has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being 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.

¹¹For 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.

Psalm

Psalm 126; tone 6



When the LORD restored
the for-¹ tunes of Zion,
then were we
like¹ those who dream.

²Then was our mouth
filled with laughter,
and our tongue with¹ shouts of joy.

continued

Psalm, continued

Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done
great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping,
carrying the seed,
will come again with joy,
shouldering their sheaves.

or Luke 1:46b-55 [not printed]

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May 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. ²⁴The 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. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent

us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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Next Sunday's Readings: Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 OR Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20].

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