

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

12 DECEMBER 2021

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise 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 in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**  
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.  
**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### 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.  
**R. Amen.**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
P. Lift up your hearts.  
**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**  
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**R. It is right and just.**

### PREFACE I OR II OF ADVENT

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.  
**All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

### COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:  
**All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**  
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .  
**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**  
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .  
**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.  
*All exchange a sign of peace*

### LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.  
**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Isa 35:4

**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.  
**R. Amen.**

### THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**R. Amen.**  
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

#### PREPARE WELL

All of us have been involved at one time or another with preparing to meet a special guest. It is often a time of mixed emotions as excitement and joy vie with some measure of anxiety about the quality of our preparations.

As Paul's Christians at Philippi waited for the return of the Lord, he knew that it could be for many a time of anxiety; would they find acceptance on his return? Would they find a place in his kingdom? It was a time of trepidation because it was feared that he would return unexpectedly, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2), and find them unprepared. In the face of such anxiety, Paul encourages them to put their trust in the Lord who loves them. Even now they are called to experience the Lord's peace and joy as they wait for his return. Especially, they are called to pray with confidence and trust.

John the Baptist knew that the Messiah was soon to be among us, and we see how he calls those who listen to his message to prepare by taking a hard look at themselves and how they live. In order to be ready when the Messiah comes he calls for a concern for others that expresses itself in generosity, fairness, and compassion.

As we prepare for the Lord's coming among us, today's readings call us to make ready with the confidence of Zephaniah, the peacefulness of Paul, and the justice and compassion of John the Baptist.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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REJOICE IN THE LORD! A theme of joy always runs through the liturgy of the Third Sunday of Advent. The joy of this day springs from our anticipation and excitement that the Lord's coming is very near. We ask the Lord to remove any sadness from our hearts that may hinder us from embracing the peace and hope which his presence will bestow on us this Christmas.

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Phil 4: 4-5

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

#### GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

#### PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**R. For we have sinned against you.**

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

#### COLLECT

P. 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

**R. Amen.**

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING Zeph 3:14-18

**A reading from the prophet Zephaniah. With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust, I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength, my song, / he became my saviour. / With joy you will draw water / from the wells of salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! / Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done glorious deeds, / make them known to all the earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

#### SECOND READING Phil 4:4-7

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.**

*The Lord is near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to



worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL Lk 3:10-18

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit**

**P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*What, then, must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'