

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday
of Advent (B)



FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1–2

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The Spirit of the LORD God has come to me,
because he has chosen me.
The LORD has sent me to tell the oppressed the good news,
to heal the brokenhearted,
and to announce freedom for prisoners and captives.

This is the year when the LORD God
will show kindness to us and punish our enemies.
The LORD has sent me to comfort all who mourn.

The word of the Lord.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1:47 & 49, 53–54

All: *My soul rejoices in my God.*

*With all my heart I praise the Lord,
and I am glad because of God my Savior.
God All-Powerful has done great things for me,
and his name is holy.*

All: *My soul rejoices in my God.*

*God gives the hungry good things to eat,
and he sends the rich away with nothing in their hands.
He helps his servant Israel
and is always merciful to his people.*

All: *My soul rejoices in my God.*

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SECOND READING
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters:
Always be joyful and never stop praying.
Whatever happens, keep thanking God
because of Jesus Christ.
This is what God wants you to do.

Don't turn away God's Spirit or ignore prophecies.
Put everything to the test.
Accept what is good and don't have anything to do with evil.

I pray that God, who gives peace,
will make you completely holy.
And may your spirit, soul, and body be kept healthy and faultless
until our Lord Jesus Christ returns.
The one who chose you can be trusted,
and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

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GOSPEL
John 1:19–28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and temple helpers to ask John who he was.

He told them plainly, "I am not the Messiah."

Then when they asked him if he were Elijah, he said, "No, I am not!"

And when they asked if he were the Prophet, he also said "No!"

Finally, they said, "Who are you then?"

We have to give an answer to the ones who sent us.

Tell us who you are!"

John answered in the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"I am only someone shouting in the desert,
'Get the road ready for the Lord!'"

Some Pharisees had also been sent to John.

They asked him, "Why are you baptizing people, if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John told them, "I use water to baptize people.

But here with you is someone you don't know.

Even though I came first,

I am not good enough to untie his sandals."

John said this as he was baptizing east of the Jordan River in Bethany.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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