

The Eucharist

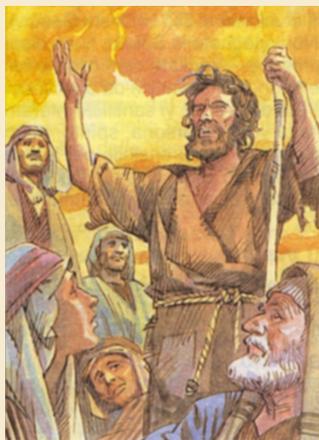
13 December 2020



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B



This Sunday is traditionally associated with rejoicing, and the prayers and readings explain why. The only solid reason for rejoicing, Jesus told his disciples, is that our names are written in heaven (Lk 10:20). In other words, we are loved by God not simply as specks in the mass of humanity but as individuals. As he revealed to the exiled Jews, he has written our names on the palms of His hands (Is 49:16). To have a happy Christmas is to take this to heart.



John came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

FIRST READING

(Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11)

The prophet is beside himself with joy because of what God has done for him and the vocation he has given him: to mend broken hearts and release those locked up. 'Stone walls do not a prison make,' the poet reminds us. The strongest prisons are the ones we make for ourselves in our minds and hearts. Jesus is the key to unlock us and release us out of our egoism, compulsions and sins.

SECOND READING

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Paul tells his people that the advent of our Saviour is certain. Because of that we should be happy, thankful for what we have and prayerful. Our confidence should make us open to the unexpected ways of God.

GOSPEL

(John 1:6-8.19-28)

The forceful Baptist never hesitated to call a spade a spade. He was a man for the straight way and straight talk. He also sums up all that is meant by humility. In his heart of hearts he did not mind yielding first place to Jesus: his message was, let Jesus be first in your life.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Phil 4:4-5)

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

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

Amen.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

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

A brief pause for silence follows:

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

The Gloria is not said.

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.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

(Is 61:1-2.10-11)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Lk 1:46-50. 53-54)

℟ My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **℟**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **℟**
3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **℟**

SECOND READING

(1 Thess 5:16-24)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Thessalonians.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give
thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do
in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy
with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to
what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may
you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you
and he will not fail you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Is 61:1; Lk 4:18)

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

(Jn 1:6-8.19-28)



The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews
sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who
are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly,
'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?'
'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.'
So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an
answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about
yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they
put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if
you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?'
John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among
you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me;
and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened
at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John
was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

**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,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including
and became man, all bow.*

**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.

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offering the bread, the priest says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the bread we offer you:

fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Offering the chalice, the priest says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the wine we offer you:

fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**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.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer II *(Preface I of Advent)*

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming
the lowliness of human flesh,
and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago,
and opened for us the way to eternal salvation,
that, when he comes again in glory and majesty
and all is at last made manifest,
we who watch for that day

may inherit the great promise
in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

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.

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,
so that they may become for us
the Body and \times Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,

WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,

THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters

who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout
the ages,

we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated
Host the following is sung or said:*

**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.**

Showing the Eucharist to the people, the priest says:

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.

**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. 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.**

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.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Personal Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to be happy for the right reasons. Only your Son's second coming can show us what true happiness is.

The advertisers explore our weakness to convince us that happiness is having things, consuming more and more, looking young beyond our years. The stable at Bethlehem wants to show us that it lies elsewhere. Free us from false values and from our sins. Open the prisons we have made for ourselves by sending your Son, the Key of David. Amen.