

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cycle A

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Come, Lord Jesus (3) come and be born in our hearts!
2. Come, O Prince of Peace (3)..come and...
3. Our hearts are open (3)...come and...
4. Come, Emmanuel (3) ...come and...
5. Maranatha (3) ...come and...

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-6. 10
God himself is coming to save you.

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 on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R) cf. Is 35:4

R. 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

A reading from the letter of St. James 5:7-10
Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11
Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(All bow)
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.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Take and receive O Lord my liberty
Take all my will, my mind, my memory
Do Thou direct, and govern all and sway
Do what Thou wilt, command and I obey.

*Only thy grace and love on me bestow
Possessing these all riches I forego.*

All things I hold, and all I own are thine
Thine was the gift, to thee I all resign
Do Thou direct and govern all and sway
Do what Thou wilt, command and I obey

COMMUNION HYMNS

1. Come, O divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.

*Sweet Saviour, haste come, come to earth:
dispel the night, and show thy face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
Come, O divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.*

2. O Thou, whom nations sighed for,
whom priests and prophets long foretold,
wilt break the captive fetters,
redeem the long-last fold.

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1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel,
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

2. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
3. O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's shadows put to flight:
4. O come, thou key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:
5. O come, O come, thou Lord of might
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. When is he coming,
when, oh when is he coming, the Redeemer?
When will we see him,
when, oh when will we see him, the Redeemer?

*Come, oh come, from your kingdom up there,
from your kingdom up there above!
Come, oh come, to your people on earth,
to your people on earth bring love!
Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Emmanuel!*

2. Long years a-waiting,
many years here a-waiting the Redeemer!
Ready to greet him,
always ready to meet him, the Redeemer!

