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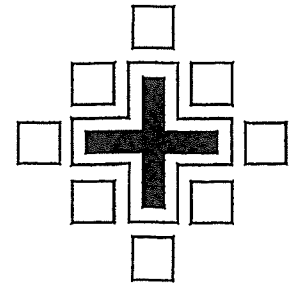
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# Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2020



**INTROIT**      *Ps. 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: Ps. 85:7*

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,\*  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to | folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*  
that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\*  
and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him\*  
and make his foot- | steps a way.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**GRADUAL**      *Zech. 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*  
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*  
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

## DAILY READINGS

**December 13:** Is. 29:15–30:14; Rev. 1:1–20; **14:** Is. 30:15–26; Rev. 2:1–29; **15:** Is. 30:27–31:9; Rev. 3:1–22; **16:** Is. 32:1–20; Rev. 4:1–11; **17:** Is. 33:1–24; Rev. 5:1–14; **18:** Is. 34:1–2, 8–35:10; Rev. 6:1–17; **19:** Is. 40:1–17; Rev. 7:1–17.

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## Old Testament Reading:

### Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

- <sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the  
brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those  
who are bound;
- <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;
- <sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint  
spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be  
glorified.
- <sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former  
devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many  
generations. . . .
- <sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant  
with them.
- <sup>9</sup> Their offspring shall be known among the  
nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the  
peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has  
blessed.
- <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul 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 like a priest  
with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her  
jewels.

- <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it  
to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness  
and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

### Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing,  
<sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is  
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do  
not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise proph-  
ecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is  
good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself  
sanctify you completely, and may your whole  
spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who  
calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

### Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose  
name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear  
witness about the light, that all might believe  
through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came  
to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the  
Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem  
to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed,  
and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the  
Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then?  
Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are  
you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."  
<sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need  
to give an answer to those who sent us. What  
do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the  
prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Phar-  
isees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you  
baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor  
Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered  
them, "I baptize with water, but among you  
stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who  
comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am  
not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place  
in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was  
baptizing.