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SERVICE OF THE WORD

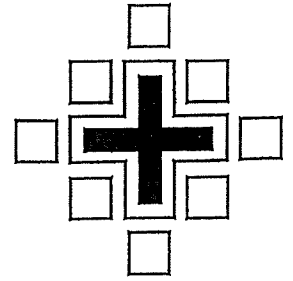
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Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021



INTROIT *Ps. 146:5–8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,*
who keeps faith for- | ever;
who executes justice for | the oppressed,*
who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

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.

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

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 12: Is. 29:1–14; Jude 1–25; **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.

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Old Testament Reading:
Zephaniah 3:14–20

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in
your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to
Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud
singing.
- ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn
for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer
reproach.
- ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into
praise
and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you
together;
for I will make you renowned and
praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication

with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18–28

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”