

Third Sunday in Advent

December 16, 2018



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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 forever;

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 beginning,* 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 Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;*

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

DAILY READINGS

December 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; **20:** Is. 40:18–41:10; Rev. 8:1–13; **21:** Is. 42:1–25; Rev. 9:1–12; **22:** Is. 43:1–24; Rev. 9:13–10:11.

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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, say-
ing, “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 con-
cerning 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.”