

# Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete

December 11, 2016



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**INTROIT** *Ps. 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4–5*

Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*

**again I will | say, Rejoice.**

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*

**The Lord | is at hand.**

Lord, you were favorable | to your land;\*

**you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.**

You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*

**you covered | all their sin.**

Will you not revive | us again;\*

**that your people may re- | joice in you?**

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.**

**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.**

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*

**The Lord | is at hand.**

## **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** *Ps. 80:1–2*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.\*

**Stir up your might and come to | save us!**

Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,\*

**you who lead Joseph | like a flock!**

**DAILY READINGS** **December 11:** Is. 28:14–29; 1 John 5:1–21; **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.

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*Gaudete*

### **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1–8**

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

### **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:1–5**

1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 I am not aware of anything against myself,

but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

### **Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2–10**

2 When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." 7 As they went away, 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? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'"