

# Readings: Third Sunday of Advent (A)

## First Reading: Is 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the arid land rejoice,  
the desert be glad and blossom.  
Covered with flowers, it sings and shouts with joy,  
adorned with the splendor of Lebanon,  
the magnificence of Carmel and Sharon.  
They, my people, see the glory of Yahweh,  
the majesty of our God.

Give vigor to weary hands  
and strength to enfeebled knees.  
Say to those who are afraid:  
"Have courage, do not fear.  
See, your God comes, demanding justice.  
He is the God who rewards,  
the God who comes to save you."  
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unsealed.

Then will the lame leap as a hart  
and the tongue of the dumb sing and shout.  
For water will break out in the wilderness  
and streams gush forth from the desert.

For the ransomed of Yahweh will return:  
with everlasting joy upon their heads,  
they will come to Zion singing,  
gladness and joy marching with them,  
while sorrow and sighing flee away.

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## Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. (cf. Is 35:4) Lord, come and save us.  
or: R. Alleluia.

The LORD God keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets captives free.  
R. (cf. Is 35:4) Lord, come and save us.  
or: R. Alleluia.

The LORD gives sight to the blind;  
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.  
The LORD loves the just;  
the LORD protects strangers.  
R. (cf. Is 35:4) Lord, come and save us.  
or: R. Alleluia.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,  
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.  
The LORD shall reign forever;  
your God, O Zion, through all generations.  
R. (cf. Is 35:4) Lord, come and save us.

or: R. Alleluia.

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## Second Reading: Jas 5:7-10

Be patient then, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. See how the sower waits for the precious fruits of the earth, looking forward patiently to the autumn and spring rains. You also be patient and do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming is near.

Beloved, do not fight among yourselves and you will not be judged. See, the judge is already at the door. Take for yourselves, as an example of patience, the suffering of the prophets who spoke in the Lord's name.

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## Gospel Reading: Mt 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison about the activities of Christ, he sent a message by his disciples, asking him: "Are you the one who is to come or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus answered them, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life and good news is reaching the poor. And how fortunate is the one who does not take offense at me."

As the messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "When you went out to the desert, what did you expect to see? A reed swept by the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? People who wear fine clothes live in palaces. What did you actually go out to see? A prophet? Yes, indeed, and even more than a prophet. He is the man of whom Scripture says: I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare the way before you.

"I tell you this: no one greater than John the Baptist has come forward among the sons of women, and yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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