

Third Sunday of Advent B

13 December 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The servant of the Lord said:

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being 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 with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

"For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all will call me blessed. **R.**

For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and Holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

From generation to generation. **R.**

The Lord has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy. **R.**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

My brothers and sisters,
rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything;
hold fast to what is good;
abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body
be kept sound and blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord now upon me;
has sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem
to ask him, "Who are you?"

He confessed and did not deny it,
but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

And they asked him,
"What then? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the prophet?"

He answered, "No."

Then they said to him, "Who are you?
Let us have an answer for those who sent us.
What do you say about yourself?"

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.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing
if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water.

Among you stands one whom you do not know,
the one who is coming after me;

I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal."

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan
where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.