

Third Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **133** *Celebration Hymnal*

The ADVENT CANDLE is lit. The priest says:
Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

All respond: **Blessed be God for ever.**

In the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All respond: **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought,
word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you ✠ from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEÏSON is sung.

Kyrie, eleïson. (× 3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

Christe, eleïson. (× 3) *(Christ, have mercy.)*

Kyrie, eleïson. (× 3) *(Lord, have mercy.)*

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings for Year C

FIRST READING

Zep 3.14–20

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

R/. Great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel. (*All repeat*)

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not fear,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation. R/.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the nations. R/.

Proclaim the greatness of his name,
sing a song of praise to the Lord.
For he has done glorious deeds;
let this be known in all the earth. R/.

Shout aloud and sing for joy,
all you that dwell in Zion,
for great in your midst is the Lord,
the Holy One of Israel. R/.

SECOND READING

Php 4.4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to
everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry
about anything, but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and
your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61.1

Alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
he has anointed me to bring good news to the
poor.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be
baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who
warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And
do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have
Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is
able from these stones to raise up children for
Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root
of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not
bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into
the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then
shall we do?" And he answered them,
"Whoever has two tunics is to share with him
who has none, and whoever has food is to do
likewise." Tax collectors also came to be bap-
tized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we
do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more
than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also
asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And
he said to them, "Do not extort money from
anyone by threats or by false accusation, and
be content with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation,
and all were questioning in their hearts con-
cerning John, whether he might be the Christ,
John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you
with water, but he who is mightier than I is
coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not
worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork
is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and
to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff
he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he
preached good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All stand to recite the NICENE CREED.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*all bow*) was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. (*all rise*) For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:

∇. Lord, hear us. R̄. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ∇. Lord, in your mercy, R̄. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:

∇. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
R̄. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The Intercessions end:

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

All stand as the priest introduces the PEACE.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **255**

The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Lord, may the gift we offer in faith and love be a continual sacrifice in your honour and truly become our eucharist and our salvation. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE follows.

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he ✠ who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:
Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory (× 2).

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:
... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.**

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Holy Communion is distributed.

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

... The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN— **364**

The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.

∨. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

℣. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death.**

∨. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

℣. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

∨. And the Word was made flesh:

℣. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

∨. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

℣. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**