

Dec. 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***NOTE: *The Magnificat* (BCP p91) replaces the Psalm this Sunday.**

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THE SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the Letter of James:

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Please respond to the bidding “Let us pray to the Lord” with
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: For our Bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

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Intercessor: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God; in loving memory of her husband, John Achey, and their son Jamie, by Virginia Achey and her family; and in loving memory of Kurt Van Tine by Carol Van Tine. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Intercessor: In the communion of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, of Saint Francis, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*