

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2021

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist,
"What should we do?"
He said to them in reply,
"Whoever has two cloaks
should share with the person who has
none.
And whoever has food should do likewise."
Even tax collectors came to be baptized
and they said to him,
"Teacher, what should we do?"
He answered them,
"Stop collecting more than what is
prescribed."
Soldiers also asked him,
"And what is it that we should do?"
He told them,
"Do not practice extortion,
do not falsely accuse anyone,
and be satisfied with your wages."
Now the people were filled with
expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,
"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of
his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
and fire.



His winnowing fan 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."
Exhorting them in many other ways,
he preached good news to the people.

Readings for the week:

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zeph 3:14-18a
Isa 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Phil 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

Monday

Num 24:2-7,
15-17a
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6
and 7bc, 8-9
Matt 21:23-27

Tuesday

Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-
18, 19 and 23
Matt 21:28-32

Wednesday

Isa 45:6c-8, 18,
21c-25
Ps 85:9ab and 10,
11-12, 13-14
Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday

Isa 54:1-10
Ps 30:2 and 4,
5-6, 11-12a
and 13b
Luke 7:24-30

Friday

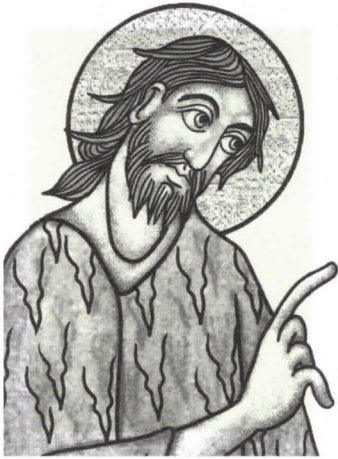
Gen 49:2, 8-10
Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab,
7-8, 17
Matt 1:1-17

Saturday

Jer 23:5-8
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13,
18-19
Matt 1:18-25

4th Sunday of Advent

Mic 5:1-4a
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16,
18-19
Heb 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45



Opening Prayer

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

In the gospel a shout is heard: urgent, loud, seeming at first to be discordant with the joy of the other readings. John the Baptist is with us again. Listening to his prophetic and passionate words, the crowds wonder if he might be the long-awaited Messiah. They come to John with their practical questions: "[W]hat is it that we should do?" they ask, and John has practical answers for them. He does not suggest that they dissociate themselves from their everyday lives, but rather that they be converted to just living and sharing in their ordinary relationships. John does not call them into the desert but urges them to be sensitive to the wilderness of poverty around them and among them, responding by clothing the needy with their extra cloak and sharing food with the hungry.

John comes to us this third week of Advent as the awakener of our sense of social justice, the one who points to the clutter of selfish concerns and materialism that can suffocate our practical love for our brothers and sisters in the stale air of indifference or greed. We are called to be concerned not only with the material clothing of the naked, but also with covering with love the naked vulnerability of someone in need. Feeding the hungry is not only about the soup kitchen, but also about nourishing one another with our compassionate concern. How can we, individually, or in our families, parishes, or other communities, respond today to John the Baptist? How can we plan ways in which we can give Christmas back to the ones to whom it really belongs: the homeless, the refugees, the elderly, the sick, the hopeless young people, those with disabilities, all of whom are so often discarded like our cast-off Christmas wrappings?

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to grow in relationship with you. You remind us that we do not live as individuals. Help us to live in authentic community with all people, and empower us to care for all of our sisters and brothers so that we might remain faithful to your Gospel and the way of life to which we are called. **Amen.**

For Reflection:

• What do you think John the Baptist's answer would be if you asked him, "What should I do?"

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayer."

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Announcements
12/11/21 to 12/12/21

Financials: Last Week 12/01/21-12/7/21

Weekly Collection Goal \$2400	Total \$1427.00 Short \$973.00	
In Church	\$ 1377.00	
OnLine Giving	\$.00	
Mail In	\$ 50.00	

Second Collection this weekend is for The Retirement Fund for Religious. HELP THE AGING RELIGIOUS.

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for the Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

Bread Baking Day is Tuesday, December 21st. The order sheet is available at the church entry. Mahalo for your continued support.

Next weekend, Second Collection is for the Maintenance Fund.

Have a Blessed Week!