

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of
the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this
question,

“Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?”

Jesus said to them in reply,

“Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news
proclaimed to them.

And blessed is the one who takes no offense
at me.”

As they were going off,

Jesus began to speak to the crowds about
John,

“What did you go out to the desert to see?

A reed swayed by the wind?

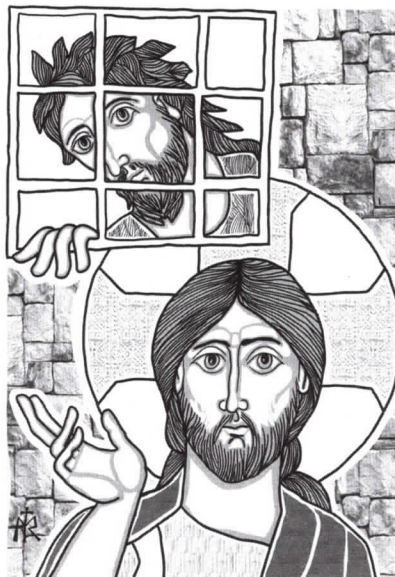
Then what did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in fine clothing?

Those who wear fine clothing are in royal
palaces.

Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.



This is the one about whom it is written:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you;*

he will prepare your way before you.

Amen, I say to you,

among those born of women

there has been none greater than John the
Baptist;

yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is
greater than he.”

Readings for the week:

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa 35:1-6a, 10
Ps 146:6-7, 8-9,
9-10
Jas 5:7-10
Matt 11:2-11

Monday

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zech 2:14-17 or Rev
11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19
Luke 1:26-38 or
1:39-47

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

Isa 56:1-3a, 6-8
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8
John 5:33-36

Saturday

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

4th Sunday of Advent

Isa 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Rom 1:1-7
Matt 1:18-24



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

Matthew describes the poignant questions that John asks Jesus through the messengers he has sent to him from Herod's prison. Doubts breed in loneliness and darkness, and they take John a long way from his confident self whom we met on Jordan's banks in last Sunday's gospel. With desperate hope, John sends his disciples to ask: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus's response echoes the Baptist's own convictions that we heard him voice last week: it is by their fruits that the man or woman of the kingdom is recognized. Jesus reminds John's messengers about the fruits of his own ministry: Jesus has harvested the blind who see again, the lame who now dance for joy, the lepers who can again kiss their loved ones, the deaf who are startled by a bird song, the dead who are raised to life. Take this good news to John, says Jesus.

As the Baptist's disciples depart, Jesus turns to the crowd to praise John in terms that would make an excellent Advent review of life for us. John was not a vacillating crowd-pleaser, not a reed that bends in the wind of public opinion. He was not a compromiser, not a well-dressed and powerful "in-group" person, not a political entrepreneur or someone welcome at prestigious places like Herod's palace. Where John did end up was in Herod's prison, and there he would lose his head, but never his heart, to that king's lack of integrity and fear of losing face. John's heart had been lost long ago to Jesus, and no doubt the message sent back to him in prison confirmed John in his love and offered him the truth that the way to deep faith so often goes through deep doubt. Do we, at least to some degree, measure up to such praise—or blame?

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to grow in relationship with you. Open our eyes so that we may see you present in our midst as the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised. Help us attune our hearts to your presence and call, so that we might remain faithful to your gospel and the way of discipleship. **Amen.**

For Reflection:

• Jesus tells John's followers to witness to Jesus's work; if you were asked to give an account of what you have seen, what would you say? Where in your life have you witnessed God's healing work?

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 Prayers."

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MASS TIMES:

Fr. Anastacio Postrano, Pastor

Daily Mass: 6:30 AM – 7:30 AM (except Mondays)

Saturday: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

4th Wednesday Masses are at 9:00AM at Hale Makua Nursing Home (Wailuku).

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every 1st Friday: 6:00 AM

CONFESSION

Saturday: 4:30 PM

After every weekday mass or by appointment.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism, Confession, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick, Funerals please call the office to make an appointment [\(808\) 244-3284](tel:8082443284) or [\(808\) 385-3021](tel:8083853021) (please leave a message).

You can also reach us via email at stannwaihee@gmail.com.

Parish Council Chair: Brandy Cajudoy Finance Chair: Gloria Filo

Financials: 11/28/22 –12/04/22

Weekly Collection Goal \$2400	Total \$2035.00 Short \$365.00	
In Church	\$	1835.00
Online Giving	\$	200.00
Mail In	\$	00.00

The Second Collection today is for Retired Religious. This goes to support those women and men of religious communities (not our own retired priests), who have served us so well in our schools, parishes, and charitable organizations. Your generosity is appreciated.

Another reminder, Bread baking for December has been cancelled; we will resume in January.

Mahalo to the 14 Volunteers that helped with the Church General cleaning and to Mr. and Mrs. Josh Lim for providing lunch.

Next weekend Second Collection for the Maintenance Fund. Mahalo for your kokua.

Have a Blessed Week!