Third Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **504** *Hymns Old & New*

The ADVENT CANDLE *is lit, and 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 live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings for Year B

FIRST READING *Isa 61.1–4,8–11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion – to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 126*

℟. What marvels the Lord worked for us;
indeed we were glad. *(All repeat)*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with songs of joy. ℟.

Then said they among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced. ℟.

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,
as the river beds of the desert.
Those who sow in tears
shall reap with songs of joy. ℟.

Those who go out weeping,
carrying the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy,
shouldering their sheaves. ℟.

SECOND READING *1 The 5.16–24*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

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 prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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

GRADUAL HYMN— **185**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Isa 61.1*

Alleluia.
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING *Jn 1.6–8,19–28*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to 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, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who

comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

A SERMON *may follow.*

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. ℟. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ℣. Lord, in your mercy, ℟. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:
℣. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
℟. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The Intercessions may end:
Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All ***stand*** *as the priest introduces the* PEACE.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **296**

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 unceasing offering of this sacrifice carry out the mystery of our redemption and accomplish your saving work among us; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC 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 *(sung twice)***.**

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.

COMMUNION HYMN— **555**

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 lives 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— **537**

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. Amen.

℣. 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.**