

THE EPISTLE

James 5:7-11

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

THE ALLELUIA & VERSE

Matthew 11:10b

Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-15

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2019



John the Baptist in Prison...Are You the One?

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

ST. MATTHEW 11:2-15.

St. Paul Lutheran Church – Preble

4510 W 750 N., Decatur, Ind. 46733

The Third Sunday in Advent

8am: Office of Matins, P. 219.* 10:15am: Divine Service, P. 184.*

Opening Hymn	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	341
Hymn of the Day	Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding	345
Communion 1	The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns	348
Communion 2	O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is	372
Communion 3	Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring	353
Closing Hymn	Hark the Glad Sound	349

CHOIR: Soloists sing, 'Rejoice in the Lord Always.'

** Following ancient custom, the TE DEUM and the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS are omitted during the penitential season of Advent. This Advent, the BENEDICTUS (P. 226) will take the place of the TE DEUM in the Office of Matins.*

THE INTROIT *Ps. 71:14-18; antiphon Phil. 4:4.*

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again, I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.

**My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of
salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.**

With the mighty deeds of the LORD God I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

**O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power
to all those who come.

[sung] Glory be to the Father, and to the Son...

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again, I will say, Rejoice.

THE COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore you to hear our prayers and to lighten
the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live
and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

² 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.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.