

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B



Take a few moments to thank God for all the things that make you happy.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

COLLECT

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...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



FIRST READING ISAIAH 61:1-2. 10-11

Imagine what it would be like to be locked away in prison – and then suddenly being given your freedom! This is one of the images Isaiah uses to explain the real joy that knowing God brings. God's love will heal hearts that are broken and

give new life to the most desolate. Isaiah proclaims a "year of favour" when debts will be forgotten, so that no one will be burdened by money troubles. Belonging to God really is good news and worth celebrating!

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. God is giving really good news to the suffering people of Israel!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM LUKE 1

My soul rejoices in my God.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



SECOND READING 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Paul is giving a hopeful message to all his readers, including us. His advice is very simple. First of all, let's be thankful and count our blessings. We have a lot to be happy about. Then, we need to keep on praying

and always remember that it is God we have to thank for all the good things in our lives. And finally, we need to trust in God who will always be with us and will never let us down.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. We can trust in God and be happy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

John's Gospel is different to the other three. Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the **synoptic** Gospels because they have a "shared view" of Jesus' life. John's Gospel is more of a **theological reflection** on Jesus' life. It is shaped to explain the **meaning of what Jesus said and did**.



THINK

A **witness** stands up in court and **tells everyone the truth**. Today we hear that John the Baptist is a witness to the truth about Jesus. Jesus is the light of the world, who brings life to us all. Do we **give witness** to the truth about Jesus? Do we show the **joy of Jesus' love** in the **way we live**?



GOSPEL JOHN 1:6-8. 19-28

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John.

John was sent by God to prepare everyone for Jesus, the Messiah. Although people misunderstood, John's message is very clear. Someone much more important and much more special than him, is coming. Like a witness in court, John is cross examined by people

who want to find the truth. He is not afraid to speak God's message. He is a prophet, making sure we are listening to what God wants to say. Jesus is God's word, the light who will bring hope and joy to us all. Rooted in God's promise, John asks us all to be ready to welcome the light.

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

"Be happy at all times"

Make a list of all the people and things that make you happy. Thank God for each one. Take your list out again whenever you are feeling worried or sad.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please bless anyone who is broken-hearted and missing those they love. Bring them comfort and help them know the joy your healing love brings. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time this week when you took something or someone for granted and then think of all the people and things that bring you happiness.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me. I feel so happy knowing that you love me. Help me to share this joy with the people I meet. Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

