

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

We can see the joy of this season once again in the Scriptures for this Sunday, also known as Gaudete Sunday. Lectors proclaim with the prophet Zephaniah that "The Lord ... is in your midst" and in Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians that "The Lord is near," while with the psalm we intone melodies that support a declaration of faith that will unite the entire assembly in prayer: "My strength and courage is the Lord, ... my savior." Today's Gospel, moreover, invites us to respond to the challenge to share all we have with the most needy among us, with the poor. By this time, community groups will have decided how they will provide the necessary assistance to the elderly, those in prison as well as their families, especially their children, and the defenseless. They should find in the texts of the word new life in the pastoral action of the faithful.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a Be joyful, Jerusalem! The Lord will come and save you from your enemies. Do not be discouraged or lose heart, for "the Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior."

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7 "Rejoice in the Lord always," wrote Paul. "I say it again: rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God; then the peace of God that surpasses understanding will guard your hearts and minds."

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1(cited in Luke 4:18)

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18 John the Baptizer said to the crowds, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." In that way he preached good news to the people.