

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023
The 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 1) Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- 3) John 1:6-8, 19-28

FOCUS: *Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.*

In today's readings Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist rejoice because they have Good News. God is with them and working through them. They are anointed, blessed, and sent to do God's will. On this Gaudete Sunday, we, too, find reason to rejoice. Let us rejoice in sharing the Good News of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah is anointed by the Lord and sent to announce *a day of vindication by our God*. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to always rejoice, pray, and give thanks. In the Gospel, John the Baptist testifies to the light and says he *is the voice of one crying out in the desert, "make straight the way of the Lord."*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: With trust in God who brings us salvation and healing, let us offer our petitions this day.

- 1) That the Holy Spirit may amplify the Church's life of "prayer without ceasing," let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That God may make peace and justice spring up before all nations, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That the Lord may look with mercy upon all who are imprisoned, moving them to repentance and freedom in him, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That God may make us holy in spirit, soul, and body as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That all who have died believing in the saving power of God may be with Christ forever, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Lord of hosts, hear these prayers which we give voice to today, and graciously grant them according to your will, through Christ our Lord.

Used by permission of FAITH Catholic. All rights reserved