

# Reading for THIRD Sunday OF ADVENT - B

## **Reading 1, *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11***

<sup>1</sup> The spirit of Lord Yahweh is on me for Yahweh has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the news to the afflicted, to soothe the broken-hearted, <sup>2</sup> to proclaim liberty to captives, release to those in prison, to proclaim a year of favour from Yahweh and a day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn. <sup>10</sup> I exult for joy in Yahweh, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in a cloak of saving justice, like a bridegroom wearing his garland, like a bride adorned in her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth sends up its shoots and a garden makes seeds sprout, so Lord Yahweh makes saving justice and praise spring up in the sight of all nations.

## **Responsorial Psalm, *Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54***

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; <sup>48</sup> because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant. Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, <sup>50</sup> and his faithful love extends age after age to those who fear him.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his faithful love

## Reading 2, *First Thessalonians 5:16-24*

<sup>16</sup> Always be joyful; <sup>17</sup> pray constantly; <sup>18</sup> and for all things give thanks; this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Do not stifle the Spirit <sup>20</sup> or despise the gift of prophecy with contempt; <sup>21</sup> test everything and hold on to what is good <sup>22</sup> and shun every form of evil. <sup>23</sup> May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may your spirit, life and body be kept blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who has called you is trustworthy and will carry it out.

## Gospel, *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

<sup>6</sup> A man came, sent by God. His name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that everyone might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, he was to bear witness to the light.

<sup>19</sup> This was the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He declared, he did not deny but declared, 'I am not the Christ.' <sup>21</sup> So they asked, 'Then are you Elijah?' He replied, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup> So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> So he said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight!' <sup>24</sup> Now those who had been sent were Pharisees, <sup>25</sup> and they put this question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the Prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptise with water; but standing among you -- unknown to you- <sup>27</sup> is the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.