

3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday
Cycle A
December 14, 2025

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1 – 6a, 10.

God, God's self will come to save us.

Psalm 146:6 – 7, 8 – 9, 9 – 10.

God come and save us.

2nd Reading: James 5:7 – 10.

Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Christ is at hand.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2 – 11.

Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?

God is good, *All the time*; All the time, *God is good.*"

Friends, our period of waiting is half over! Rejoice! Be filled with Joy! This is why we roll out our "rose" colored vestry; let me say it takes a brave man to wear "pink." That is why it is called "rose". It's a reminder that there is something special here (only happens twice a year). We are called and reminded to push restart or to reenergize our efforts to make our hearts ready for the coming of our Lord. Has he left us, no but we need our annual recharge to remember the great gift our God became for us to set us on the right path.

We hear from Isaiah in his prophecy today that God, God's-self will come to save us: and God's reign will be a life that is all good: it will be a kin-dom where all are thriving and living together as one. There will be no disease, no sickness, no death, only rejoicing with our God who loves us. A kin-dom like none of us have seen or heard of and yet one that we can really hope for and strive to achieve.

James encourages us to keep our hearts firm and not become discouraged because the Lord is at hand. To not complain about one another but rather to live life patiently as we face pain and illness in our life because it is for the glory of our God as God removes this from our lives. the message is "this too shall pass!" The Lord is coming and wants to be with us, so live like you believe that. As our psalm response reminds us "Lord, come and save us!" a great reason to live with "Joy!"

Our Gospel takes an interesting twist, in that John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who is now facing death and is imprisoned, is beginning to have doubts. So, he sends his disciples to do a double check that he has not been mistaken. Jesus understands that he is not fitting the mold that people, including John, had for the Messiah. Jesus, however, in response quotes the prophet as to what the Messiah would bring into our world. Rather, look deeper, and realize that God does keep God's promises. Even in his doubts there is none greater than John the Baptist who has accepted their mission from God. God has and does send us God's son to save us and help us return to God.

This is why we celebrate Christmas every year and why we celebrate the "Eucharist" often; because God became one of us so that we can become one with God. There is no greater gift! Rejoice! Again, I say, "Rejoice."

God is good. All the time. All the time. God is good.