

DECEMBER 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Joyous news for the needy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

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| Sunday | Luke 3:7-18 | One more powerful is coming |
| Monday | Zephaniah 3:14-20 | A song of joy |
| Tuesday | Philippians 4:4-7 | The Lord is near |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 55:6-13 | Invitation to abundant life |
| Thursday | 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 | Encouragement to be generous |
| Friday | Proverbs 15:23 | Expressing joy with our words |
| Saturday | Isaiah 12:2-6 | Thanksgiving and praise |
| Sunday | Luke 1:39-55 | Mary visits Elizabeth |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So, with many other exhortations, he [John the Baptist] proclaimed the good news to the people. Luke 3:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of love, bring your joy and compassion to those in need and help us to change our ways when we are insensitive to others, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food give us joy to know that you care for us every day of our lives through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power and love of God give you joy through Christ our Lord.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you experienced great joy.
- How does the message of John the Baptist bring joy as well as repentance?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 3:7-18.

John the Baptist calls the people, “brood of vipers.” He demands repentance. What does not reflect “good fruits” of repentance will be burned up in “unquenchable fire.” John calls his message “good news.” Really? Yes, really. The good news is that injustices that harm people’s lives will not be tolerated. We can do simple steps to make a positive difference by giving food, clothing, and fair treatment to others. All of this prepares us for the coming of the Messiah who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and a cleansing fire. The good news for a life of faith is that there is real joy in God through Jesus Christ. The power of God is present in this Messiah, this Jesus. Thanks be to God for this joyous news!

Discuss: What steps can we take to prepare for the coming of the Messiah?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, bring your power and your rule of justice and mercy to all the world, and lead us to bring joy and love to others. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, in what way can you bring joy to the needy?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is the Third Sunday of Advent. Light two blue/purple candles and the pink candle on the Advent Wreath.

Say: **We light the first candle, the Prophet’s candle, the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, and the pink candle, the Shepherd’s candle, representing the joy the shepherds felt upon finding the Christ child. May we prepare with joy for the coming of Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Pray: **Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, love to care for others, hope in your promise, and joy for the coming of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**



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