

# December 11, 2016

## Third Sunday of Advent Lectionary: 7

### Reading 1 [Is 35:1-6a, 10](#)

The desert and the parched land will exult;  
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.  
They will bloom with abundant flowers,  
and rejoice with joyful song.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.  
Strengthen the hands that are feeble,  
make firm the knees that are weak,  
say to those whose hearts are frightened:  
Be strong, fear not!  
Here is your God,  
he comes with vindication;  
with divine recompense  
he comes to save you.  
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,  
the ears of the deaf be cleared;  
then will the lame leap like a stag,  
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will  
return  
and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy;  
they will meet with joy and gladness,  
sorrow and mourning will flee.

### Responsorial Psalm [Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10](#)

R. (cf. Is 35:4) **Lord, come and save us.**  
The LORD God keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets captives free.  
R. **Lord, come and save us.**

### Reading 2 [Jas 5:7-10](#)

Be patient, brothers and sisters,  
until the coming of the Lord.  
See how the farmer waits for the precious  
fruit of the earth,  
being patient with it  
until it receives the early and the late rains.  
You too must be patient.  
Make your hearts firm,  
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.  
Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about  
one another,  
that you may not be judged.  
Behold, the Judge is standing before the  
gates.  
Take as an example of hardship and  
patience, brothers and sisters,  
the prophets who spoke in the name of the  
Lord.

### Alleluia [Is 61:1 \(cited in Lk 4:18\)](#)

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel [Mt 11:2-11](#)

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the  
works of the Christ,  
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this  
question,  
“Are you the one who is to come,  
or should we look for another?”  
Jesus said to them in reply,  
“Go and tell John what you hear and see:  
the blind regain their sight,  
the lame walk,  
lepers are cleansed,  
the deaf hear,  
the dead are raised,  
and the poor have the good news proclaimed  
to them.  
And blessed is the one who takes no offense  
at me.”

As they were going off,  
Jesus began to speak to the crowds about  
John,  
“What did you go out to the desert to see?  
A reed swayed by the wind?  
Then what did you go out to see?  
Someone dressed in fine clothing?  
Those who wear fine clothing are in royal  
palaces.  
Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?  
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.  
This is the one about whom it is written:  
*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead  
of you;  
he will prepare your way before you.*  
Amen, I say to you,  
among those born of women  
there has been none greater than John the  
Baptist;  
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is  
greater than he.”