

Advent 3

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Jesus lifted up the work and character of John the Baptist, of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said that one would come to prepare the way of the Lord. With the promises of a desert in full bloom, the blind receiving sight, and the lame walking, the exhortation to be patient and persevere until the coming of the Lord's Messiah gives us hope and courage as we wait for Christ's return.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10**Your God Will Come and Save You**

When the Lord comes to save his people, even the earth will be glad. The desert will bloom and flower; the dry land shall sing its praises to the Lord. The blind shall see, the lame shall leap and the mute will sing for joy as salvation comes to God's people, who will be brought back to Zion.

Psalm 146**Sing Praises to the Lord**

There is only one who can save, only one in whom we can trust. This one, the Lord God Almighty, is the same one who made heaven and earth. He sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind. He upholds the orphan and widow and will reign forever and ever.

Second Lesson: James 5:7-11**Be Patient**

Blessed are those who remain steadfast in the face of suffering. Be patient and long-suffering, for the Lord is merciful and compassionate.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-15**John Inquires of Jesus**

When John the Baptist was in prison for proclaiming a baptism of repentance, he sent his followers to Jesus, asking him, "Are you the one?" Jesus sent a message back to John quoting the prophet Isaiah, "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk ...". Then Jesus spoke to the crowds about John, praising him among men and confirming his role as the messenger sent to prepare the way of the Lord.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

- * The liturgical color is blue.
- * Use the Kyrie in Advent.
- * Prayer for lighting the third candle on the Advent wreath — the Shepherd's Candle:
Lord of light, as we light the Shepherd's Candle on the Advent wreath, help us to hear your call to come and worship the Messiah. As you led a group of shepherds to the manger of Christ, so lead us to a deeper obedience to Him who was born to save us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
We Sing of Christ Our King	---	---	---	---	---	web
Hark! The Glad Sound	35	---	349	239	92	92
On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry	36	---	344	249	101	101
Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel	34	---	357	257	103	103
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	30	---	338	254	---	---
Joy to the World!	39	---	387	267	123	123
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers	25	---	515	244	99	99
Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn	---	633	---	242	---	---
The First Noel	56	---	---	300	121	121
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles
Advent Carol (CCLI# 7028888)
Come to Us (CCLI# 6149833)
This is Our God (CCLI# 3330810)
Thrive (CCLI# 7006228)
Blessed Assurance (CCLI# 6527149)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.