

Advent 3

December 13, 2026

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

God puts people in our lives to prepare us for Christ. Their job is to till the soil of our hearts to prepare us to receive the seed of the Word. John the Baptist was called to prepare the people for the coming Lord. Many heard his message and repented, but many others resisted and turned away from John's witness thereby rejecting the coming Christ. Will we listen to the call and receive him or will we turn away?



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**Sent to the Brokenhearted**

The words spoken by Isaiah were the same words Jesus spoke in when he stood before his people and proclaimed the coming kingdom (Luke 4:18). Sent to the brokenhearted and captive, both Isaiah and Jesus were given God's commission to free people and remind them of God's covenantal love and mercy.

Psalms 126**The Lord Has Done Great Things**

For those who recognize the generous hand of God in their midst, their hearts sing for joy just as the heart of the psalmist who proclaimed that the Lord has done great things for his people and makes their hearts glad. God's goodness was a like a dream come true for those who struggled in pain but were then filled with joy.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**The Will of God for You**

Saint Paul proclaimed to the Christians in Thessalonica that God's will for them in Christ was that they would give thanks in everything, rejoice always, and pray unceasingly. Though hard to do, it's a reminder that God is always working in our lives. Let us take care not to quench the Holy Spirit as he moves and fills us.

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28**A Witness to the Light**

The arrival of John the Baptist, who was not the light, but the one who was sent to bear witness to the Light, had come. The goal of John's witness was that all would come to believe in the Messiah of Israel. The Light, Jesus, was coming into the world and this was a call to prepare our hearts to receive him.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Blue or Purple.
- Use the Kyrie during Advent.
- Use the Nicene Creed.
- This Third Sunday in Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday. The word, (**GOWD-ay-tay**) means "rejoice." On this day, it is appropriate to light a pink candle on the Advent wreath (if your congregation uses pink and blue/purple) to signify the joy of nearing Christmas.
- To help the congregation focus on the aspects of joy for this Third Sunday in Advent consider singing the round, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice."
- Pray for the brokenhearted today as we think about God's love for the outcast and alone.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Joy to the World	39	---	387	267	123	123
Prepare the Royal Highway	26	---	343	264	102	102
Rejoice, Rejoice Believers	25	---	515	244	99	99
Christ, Be Our Light	---	---	---	715	---	---
O Day of Peace	---	762	---	711	---	---
Softy and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling	---	734	---	608	177	177
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11
Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing	259	---	924	545	54	54
Let Us Break Bread Together	212	---	---	471	83	83

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

Shining Star
(CCLI# 6186119)
Light of the World
(CCLI# 934807)
He is the Light
(CCLI# 7061131)
Light of the World
(CCLI# 7023299)
Sing Hallelujah
(CCLI# 5877175)

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