

### The Third Sunday in Advent

The Old Testament is written in the 35th chapter of the prophet Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

This passage may be found in the pew bible on page 822.

*(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)*

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, The excellency of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.

No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there,

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*(Pause for a count of 5)*

This is the word of the Lord.

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

**For the Psalm – Benedictus – BCP p. 14**

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel; \* for he hath visited and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us, \* in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets, \* which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies, \* and from the hand of all that hate us.

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \* and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, \* that he would give us;

That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \* might serve him without fear;

In holiness and righteousness before him, \* all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: \* for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \* for the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God; \* whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, \* and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

***Glory be...***

### The Third Sunday in Advent

The Epistle is written in the fourth chapter of St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, beginning at the first verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 94.

*(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)*

LET a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing against myself;

yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

*(Pause for a count of 5)*

This is the word of the Lord.