

# ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH



ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND IN OREGON  
OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

### **First Reading** IS 61:1-2A, 10-11 9-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

### **Responsorial:**

My soul rejoices in my God.

### **Second Reading** 1 Thes 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

### **Gospel**

**Jn 1:6-8, 19-28**

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?"

He said: *"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said.*

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

### **Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

*At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



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**Words from the Pastor  
December 13, 2020  
Third Sunday of Advent**

This past week has been very eventful. We celebrated the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, and on December 12<sup>th</sup> will remember Our Lady of Guadalupe. This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday or Rose Sunday. It is one of two days in a year when we are allowed to wear rose (not pink) vestments. The other time is the fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday. It is a 'lightening up' of the message. The Antiphon for the day is "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."

The reading from Isaiah begins with a text that Jesus will quote when teaching in a synagogue. "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;" Jesus goes on to say 'Today this has been accomplished in your midst.' He is the anointed one. The people are confused about what this means. He had also healed a disabled person at that time, on a Sabbath. Some criticized him for doing 'work' on the Sabbath. The responsorial psalm is taken from Mary's Magnificat: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior". The second reading tells us to "Rejoice always."

The Gospel from John speaks of John the Baptist who was sent from God, "to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. He refers to the Prophet Isaiah, saying; "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'"

