

Cycle A – Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2022

“What did you go out to see? ...”

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 146)

Leader: It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who gives justice to the oppressed;
and food to the hungry.

All: The Lord sets the prisoners free.
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind
and lifts those who are bowed down;

Leader: The Lord loves the righteous
and watches over the strangers.
The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow.

All: But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever,
for all generations. Amen



Gospel – Matthew 11:2-11

Last Sunday, we heard John the Baptist preach the coming of a strong Messiah who would restore order and punish evil people, and ensure that justice would prevail. Now Jesus has arrived, and John has doubts while in prison, so he asks Jesus the question: “Are you the one?” Jesus points to what is happening: healing, new life and Good News proclaimed. But this is not what John had envisioned: that salvation is not punitive but salvific. Instead of judgment, Jesus announces God’s mercy. Instead of imposing a new world order, Jesus invites people into a new covenant that transforms their lives, and Jesus shows special care to the excluded and the suffering.

1. What do you learn in this reading about the relationship between John and Jesus?
2. How has your life been touched and transformed by Jesus and his message of God’s mercy?
3. What are the distinguishing marks of a prophet?

LIVING THE WORD

What is God’s challenge for me/us this coming week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: For the oppressed, the hungry, the enchained, the blind, the strangers and all those bowed down, may our active charity be the expression of your presence in the heart of their pain.

We pray to the Lord.

Invite other intentions, ending with “Our Father ...”)

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: God our Father we implore you. See our blind eyes: enlighten them

All: Emmanuel, we implore you. See our deaf ears: open them.

Leader: Spirit of God, we implore you. See our mute mouths: let them shout your praise.

All: Make the desert of our hearts blossom again and fill us with rejoicing and singing.

Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of peace: a peace the world cannot give.