



USCCaruso
Catholic Center

Third Sunday in Advent

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

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.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Isaiah 61:10b)

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

A Reading from the First letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters:

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.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

Isaiah 61:1 (cited in Luke 4:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John:

John 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:

by Fr. Richard Sunwoo

Today, the Church celebrates Gaudete Sunday. In Latin, it means: “Rejoice” and is the first word in the Entrance Antiphon for our Mass today. Like Laetare Sunday during the season of Lent, Gaudete Sunday indicates both the midpoint of our season of Advent and signals the soon arrival of Christ’s birth.

As we continue to journey through Advent, allow me to offer our families a particular resolution to include in your daily plan of life: allow Christ to be visible in me. Before this resolution can be made, it does require some serious reflection. When interacting with others, with my family members in the home in particular, do they see Christ in me clearly? If not, what are some of the things that I need to address so that Christ can be more visible? Is there a need for me to go to confession? Is there a need for me to seek forgiveness from others? Do I need to be more charitable in both attitude and action?

After you have taken the time to reflect on these questions, prepare yourself to make a few firm and concrete resolutions. I recommend that you be as specific as you can and actually schedule a time during the week to make it happen. If this requires a particular act of mortification, offer it up for someone.

At this point, you might be wondering why this is so important, especially today. In our Gospel today, people were asking John the Baptist if he was the Christ to which he responded that he was not. Although he was not the Christ, the way in which he lived allowed others to see the signs of Christ in his life. We must strive to live so that Christ is visible in us. A very holy priest told me about an encounter with a lady at his parish that sparked his discernment to be a priest. As a young man, he was an altar server and arrived early to prepare for mass. As usual, he wore his black cassock, but hadn’t put his surplice on. Just then, a lady came into the sacristy and asked if he was a priest. He told her he wasn’t, but that she could find the pastor in the office. As she was walking away, she said to him: “You should think about being a priest. For a minute, you could have totally fooled me!” In many ways, his experience is our own. If we are serious about our life of faith, we go about our daily tasks—always with a supernatural outlook and purpose. Yet, in the course of sanctifying our work, Christ is made visible—even in the midst of ordinary life!

May we desire to live well so that when we interact with others (in the streets, in our offices, in our homes, and in the marketplaces) people may see and know that Christ is passing by!

Nicene Creed:

ALL: 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,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

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

Presider: Let us now offer our prayers in joyful hope to the Lord who comes to heal and save us.

Intercessions:

1. For our Church and parish community, that joy and thanksgiving may be the center of the faith we live and celebrate together:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

2. For Pope Francis, Archbishop Jose Gomez, Fr. Richard, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be faithful witnesses to the light of Christ:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

3. For the peoples and countries of the world, that justice, liberty, and peace may “spring up” before all nations:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

4. For families and households, that the joy and peace of this holy season may illuminate their homes in every season of the year:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

5. For those who fear, who suffer, and who mourn, that, in our compassion and help, they may experience the healing presence of God:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

6. For all the faithful who have died that they may reborn in the light of the Risen Savior:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

Gracious God, hear our prayers. May your Spirit come upon us to transform our lives and our world from barrenness to harvest, from sickness to wholeness, from division to completeness, from death to life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Savior and Redeemer.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider:

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen