

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**Gathering:**

Sing We Maranatha! (Cooney) (V3,V4)  
Here in labor, there in play,  
Justice chosen on the way.  
Each revenge refused its right,

Drives away the night.  
Father's hands and mother's breast,  
Spend in love and laid to rest.  
Life consumed by sacrifice,  
Christ before our eyes.

**Let us see you where you are,**  
**Breath of lovers, seed of star.**  
**Source and heart of ev'rything,**  
**Sing we, Maranatha!**

**Advent Candle Lighting: Advent Gathering (Cooney/Daigle) (V3) ... G250**

Where is the road you promise the exile?  
Where is the good news preached to the lowly?  
Show us your face, O Lord Jesus come.

Come O hope of your people.  
Come among us and stay.  
Lead us in mercy up from the shadows, shine in our darkness  
Be here today.

**First Reading**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

The spirit of God is upon me,  
because God has anointed me;  
God 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 Most High  
and a day of vindication by our God.  
I rejoice heartily in the Most High,  
in my God is the joy of my soul;  
For God 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 God.**

**Responsorial: Let Us Go Rejoicing (Joncas) (V1,V4,V5) ... G107**

Refrain

Let Us Go Rejoicing to the house of the Lord

Vs. 1: I rejoiced when I heard them say, "Let us go to the house of the Lord",  
And now our feet are standing in your gates, O Jerusalem.

Vs. 4: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
"May those who love your prosper; may peace ever reign within your walls,  
And wealth within your buildings.

Vs. 5: For love of my family and love of my friends,  
I pray that peace be yours.  
For love of the house of the Lord our God I pray for your good.

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the community at Thessalonia**

Sisters and brothers: 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 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 God will accomplish it.

**The Word of our God.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Mass of Renewal (Stephan) ... BB877**

Alleluia

*"The spirit of the Lord is upon me.  
I have been anointed to bring glad tidings to all."*

## **Gospel Reading**

### **A reading from the Gospel of John**

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 Good News of Salvation**

## **Homily**

### **Universal Intercessions**

**Response: Faithful God, hear our prayer.**

(Faithful God, hear our prayer.)

For the Church: that we may be instruments of joy, reflecting God's delight in humans who have been created in the divine likeness, let us pray...

That the Prince of Peace, who came to bring glad tidings to the poor, to

release the prisoners, and to heal the brokenhearted, may instruct the hearts of world leaders in his ways, let us pray...

That we will be a community that gives hope to the restless, the anxious, and the despondent, let us pray...

For healing in our communities and our Nation, that God will break the cycle of injustice and open new avenues for dialogue and understanding in cities and nations, let us pray...

And for what else shall we pray?...

## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **Preparation of Gifts**

#### **Offertory: I Have Been Anointed (Balhoff/Daigle/Ducote) ... H/O**

[V1] To bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken heart,  
I have been anointed.  
To proclaim liberty to captives, release to prisoners,  
I have been anointed.

**[Refrain] Your Spirit, O God, is upon me,  
I have been anointed.**

[V2] To announce a year of favor, to comfort those who mourn,  
I have been anointed.  
To give to them the oil of gladness, and share the mantle of joy,  
I have been anointed. [Refrain]

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer *(if you are watching the video or listening to the audio, please follow along and participate with Fr. Jack; and continue with the Communion Songs below.)*

**Holy: Mass of Renewal (Stephan) ... BB879**

**Mem: Mass of Renewal - When We Eat This Bread (Stephen) ... BB881**

**Amen: Mass of Renewal (Stephan) ... BB883**

**Lamb of God: Mass of Renewal (Stephan) ... BB884**

**Communion1 (10am): Ready the Way (Hurd) ... BB63**

**Vs. 1. "Ready the way of the Lord,**

Ready the way of the Lord." A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Ready the way of the Lord."

Vs. 2 Let every valley be filled, Let every valley be filled. Let every mountain be humbled, Let every valley be filled. Refrain

Refrain.: Here is your God, coming with your vindication. Look and behold the saving power of God.

Vs. 3. Desert and waste land will bloom, Desert and waste land will bloom. Glory and splendor will fill the land, Desert and waste land will bloom.

Vs. 4. Those who are blind will then see, Those who are deaf will then hear. Those who are lame will then leap for joy, Those who are mute will then sing. Refrain

Vs. 5. Strengthen the ones who are weak, Strengthen the ones who are weak. Say to the frightened: "Have courage." Strengthen the ones who are weak. Refrain

**Communion2 (8am & 10am): Put On Christ (Hurd) ... H/O**

Refrain: Put on Christ. Put on Christ.

Come to the waters of everlasting life.

Put on Christ. Put on Christ.

Walk in the freedom of the children of God.

V1 We have come to this feast, called by love, for love, keeping memory of the Lord. Refrain.

V2 We become what we share, Bread of Life, Jesus, blessed and broken for the world. Refrain.

### **Prayer after Communion**

### **Announcements**

**Go in peace,  
Thanks be to God.**

**Sending (8am): Ready the Way (Hurd) ... BB63**  
*See above*

**Sending (10am): Exult You Just Ones (O'Connor SJ) ... H/O**

Exult You Just Ones (O'Connor SJ)

[Cantor] Prepare in the wilderness, a highway for our God!

[V1] Prepare in the wilderness, a highway for our God.

Let the mountains and hills be made low;

Let the lowlands and valleys be raised.

For the Lord reveals His power;

The Lord comes as a lamb; the Lord is born as a man.

[Antiphon] Exult you just ones in the Lord,

Let hills and mountains be shaken by your song,

For the Lord walks among us in our land.

[V2] Yahweh, the Mighty One says this:

“Behold, I make all things new.

A new day has dawned for the nations of the earth.

Let all creation rejoice!” [Antiphon]

[V3] Yahweh, the Holy One, says this:

“I myself give you a sign:

A virgin conceives and bears you a Son.

His name: Emmanuel!” [Antiphon]