



Third Sunday of Advent

This week the Church in the midst of a penitential season reminds us of the need for hope and even joy. The prophet Isaiah foretells the mission of the Messiah who comes to; "bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners." A time of favor from God is announced.

The Responsorial Psalm is Mary expressing her joy at being chosen by God to bear the Savior. Her Magnificat speaks the complete giving over to God of her life, her will, and her whole self.

St. Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians urges the people to; "rejoice always and pray without ceasing." The direction of their prayer is always to give thanks. Paul tells them is what pleases God. He will accomplish everything in those who are faithful.

In the Gospel, John brings light upon John the Baptist. Like in the account by St. Mark last week, John is seen as being sent directly by God. John comes not as the expected Messiah, but as one testifying to Him who would come after him.

The Holy Season of Advent is a time to watch, wait, and prepare for the coming of the Lord. John preached about Christ's first coming, but our preparations focus on His second coming at the end of time. May our Advent practices and devotions help us as we wait for the Lord.

Peace,

Fr. Robert