

14 December 2014

Third Sunday of Advent

Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your
mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your
way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the
wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your
sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

My brothers and sisters, ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray
without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the
words of prophets, but test everything; ²¹hold fast
to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.
²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you
entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be
kept sound and blameless at the coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is
faithful, and he will do this. (NRSV)

Gospel

John 1.6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name
was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the
light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He
himself was not the light, but he came to testify
to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the
Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to
ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰He confessed and did
not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'
²¹And they asked him, 'What then? Are you
Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?'
He answered, 'No.' ²²Then they said to him, 'Who
are you? Let us have an answer for those who
sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He
said,
'I am the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord"',
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.
²⁵They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if
you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the
prophet?' ²⁶John answered them, 'I baptize with
water. Among you stands one whom you do not
know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not
worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸This
took place in Bethany across the Jordan where
John was baptizing. (NRSV)

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly
gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.