# Third Sunday in Advent



*Today's Appointed Psalm: Psalm 146*

## Isaiah 35:1–10

**35** The wilderness and the land will be glad;
the desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose.
2 It will bloom profusely
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendour of our God.
3 Strengthen the limp hands
and steady the feeble knees!
4 Say to those with anxious hearts:
"Be strong, do not fear!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance.
With divine retribution He will come to save you."
5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
6 Then the lame will leap like a deer
and the mute tongue will shout for joy.
For waters will gush forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert.
7 The parched ground will become a pool,
the thirsty land springs of water.
In the haunt where jackals once lay,
there will be grass and reeds and papyrus.
8 And there will be a highway
called the Way of Holiness.
The unclean will not travel it—
only those who walk in the Way—
and fools will not stray onto it.
9 No lion will be there,
and no vicious beast will go up on it.
Such will not be found there,
but the redeemed will walk upon it.
10 So the redeemed of the LORD will return
and enter Zion with singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee.

**Notes**

## James 5:7–11

7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the
farmer awaits the precious fruit of the soil—how patient he is for the
fall and spring rains. 8 You, too, be patient and strengthen your hearts,
because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Do not complain about one
another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look, the Judge is
standing at the door!

10 Brothers, as an example of patience in affliction, take the
prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 See how blessed we
consider those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's
perseverance and have seen the outcome from the Lord. The Lord is
full of compassion and mercy.

## Matthew 11:2–15

2 Meanwhile John heard in prison about the works of Christ, and
he sent his disciples 3 to ask Him, "Are You the One who was to come,
or should we look for someone else?"

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see:
5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the
deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the
poor. 6 Blessed is the one who does not fall away on account of Me."

7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the
crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A
reed swaying in the wind? 8 Otherwise, what did you go out to see? A
man dressed in fine clothes? Look, those who wear fine clothing are
found in kings' palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom
it is written:

'Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way before You.'

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has risen no
one greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least in the kingdom of
heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until
now, the kingdom of heaven has been subject to violence, and the
violent lay claim to it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied
until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who
was to come.

15 He who has ears, let him hear.

## Notes

Looking Ahead: **Advent 4**

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| Old Testament | Isaiah 7:10–17 |
| Psalm | Psalm 24 |
| Epistle | Romans 1:1–7 |
| Gospel | Matthew 1:18–25 |

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