

ADVENT 3, THURSDAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in travail! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her that is married, says the LORD. Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities. Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the LORD has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I

hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the LORD, your Redeemer. “For this is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 30:1–6

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 30, verses 1 through 6, found in the red Prayer Book on page 621.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD,
because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

- 2 O LORD my god, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.

- 3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the
grave.
- 4 Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; *
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an
eye, *
his favor for a lifetime.
- 6 Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; *
he has anointed me to preach good news
to the poor.

People Alleluia.

The Reader returns to his or her seat.

Please turn the page for the Gospel Lesson.

The Holy Gospel

The Minister says

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Minister

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the messengers of John had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John, “What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.’ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” (When they heard this all the people and the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John; but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

The Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.