Prayer for the Morning

The Lord comes to rule the earth: let us give thanks and praise!

Glory to the Father... Alleluia!

Hymn

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh; Come then and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings from the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast; And furnished for so great a guest; Yea, let us each our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

Psalm 96

He was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. (Jn 5: 35)

John holds the lamp by which we see Jesus as the light of the world. He does not allow himself to cast any shadow on the good news of the coming he proclaims: he stands out of the way and draws all the attention to the promised Christ. In Christ, not in ourselves, lies the source of all our joy in this Advent season – and always!

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord, all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.
Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name.

Proclaim to the nations: “God is king.” The world he made firm in its place; he will judge the peoples in fairness.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father…

**Word of God**

Acts 13: 24-25

*John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, “What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.”*

He must increase; I must decrease.

*(Jn 3: 30)*

**Canticle of Zechariah**

(Text, back cover B)

For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus. (2 Cor 4: 5)

**Intercessions**

Let us pray in hope to Christ who makes all things right:
Come to rule the earth!
Your coming fulfills the world’s longing:
– make our lives a witness to your presence and your promise.

Your coming brings rejoicing for all who love you:
– make our joy a shining lamp for all who are without hope of joy.

Your coming makes right all that is wrong:
– make us bearers of your good news.

Personal intentions

Our Father…
O God of all good, you sent John the Baptist to announce the good news of Christ's coming. Send us to live lives illumined by the Gospel, that we too may be a source of joy in your promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mass
Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice in the Lord," for as miserable as life can seem at times, the reality is that God has clothed us “with a robe of salvation” that heals all our poverty, our broken hearts, our bondage. “He has mercy on those who fear him,” that is, those who fear only one thing: losing their relationship with the Lord. Therefore, “be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Even though in the troubles of life you may not recognize him, “the one who calls you is faithful.”

Entrance Antiphon
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice./ Indeed, the Lord is near. (Phil 4: 4-5)

The Gloria is not said.
COLLECT
O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

I rejoice heartily in the Lord.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah  61: 1-2a, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,/ because the Lord has anointed me;/ he 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 Lord/ and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,/ in my God is the joy of my soul;/ for he 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 the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Lk 1)

(Is 61:10b) My soul rejoices in my God.