

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Scripture Readings**

**Sonya Malone**

*Texts in square brackets [like this] are for reference only; please do not read aloud.*

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**[Prayer for Illumination]**

Let us pray:

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

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**[Old Testament Lesson    Isaiah 35:1-10            p. 663 in O.T.]**

The **Old Testament Lesson** is from **Isaiah**, beginning at Chapter **35**, verse **1** on page 663 in the Old Testament.

Hear the Word of God.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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**[Psalm 146:5-10]**

Our **Responsive Psalm**, printed in the Order of Service, is from **Psalm 146**.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the Lord!

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[Please pause for the Gloria Patri]

**\*[Gloria Patri]**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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**[Epistle Lesson      James 5:7-10                      p. 231 in N.T.]**

The **Epistle Lesson** is from James, beginning at Chapter 5, verse **7**, on page 231 in the New Testament.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.