

Heart ♥ to ♥ Heart



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Third Week of Advent 2022

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1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



Recall that as a child, and even as an adult, I looked forward to the third Sunday of Advent, “Gaudete Sunday.” It seemed like a lovely break in Advent – a reminder – a bit of a pause for us to recall that Christmas is coming, that Jesus would be born among us a little child, a very special child, and human, just like us. The Entrance Antiphon exhorts us, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Indeed, the Lord is near.”

In the Gospel passage, when the disciples of John the Baptist come to Jesus to check on whether Jesus was really the Promised One, the one who is to come, Jesus’ reply is clear: “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”

How is it that we will recognize Jesus today? What is it that He continues to tell us about Himself and about ourselves, too, if we are to be recognized as His followers? It is simple, really, though not always easy. Does what we do on a day-to-day basis proclaim the good news of God’s unconditional love for each of us – particularly for the poor and neglected, the neediest among us far and near? Yes, that is how we continue to be recognized as Christians, as followers of Jesus. In these remaining days of Advent, may we be faithful to that call.

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