



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11  
 Luke 1:46-50,53-54  
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
 John 1:6-8,19-28

### Monday December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zechariah 2:14-17  
 or Rev 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab  
 Judith (15:9d)13:18-19  
 Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

### Tuesday December 13 Saint Lucy

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13  
 Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23  
 Matthew 21:28-32

### Wednesday December 14

Isaiah 45:6b-8,18,21b-25  
 Ps 85:9ab,10-14  
 Luke 7:18b-23

### Thursday December 15

Isaiah 54:1-10  
 Ps 30:2,4-6,11,13b  
 Luke 7:24-30

### Friday December 16

Isaiah 56:1-3a,6-8  
 Ps 67:2-3,5,7-8  
 John 5:33-36

### Saturday December 17

Genesis 49:2,8-10  
 Ps 72:1-4ab,7-8,17  
 Matthew 1:1-17

John the Baptist came to "testify to the light." What does that mean?

We know that Jesus is the Light of Truth that shines in the darkness to draw us to eternal life. And we know that his Spirit enlightens us in the truth so that we can be saved from our sinfulness and follow our Savior to heaven. But what was the testimony given by John? How did he testify to the light? And how does this affect our lives today?

John's testimony was: "I am not the Christ. I am a voice. A voice in the wilderness." And his testimony brings us to the Light of Christ by challenging us with: "Where is your life arid and dry? Christ is coming to meet you there! Make a bee-line to him! Repent, change, do whatever is necessary to find Jesus!"

We've all experienced times when Jesus seems unavailable. What has opened your eyes to his presence? Whose voice has turned you back to God? It's time to do the same for others, to bring glad tidings to the poor (as it says in the first reading), to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their sins, and to announce how to be blessed by friendship with the Lord.

We all have the same calling as John had: We are all supposed to be voices crying out loud enough to be

heard above the din of the world. Many souls are lost in the wilderness of confusion, hopelessness, pain, heartache, and despair, not to mention sinfulness. Can we rightfully ignore their needs? Certainly not! Someday we will have to explain to Jesus why we failed to be the voice that could have helped others find him.



What kind of a voice do you have? Because we have Christ within us, our very lives are the voice. How we handle trials, revealing our faith in Jesus, is a voice that's audible to those who are struggling.

The better we live the faith, the louder and clearer is our message.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. How has your life been changed by your faith in Jesus? What evil has been conquered, what darkness has been overcome? This is your testimony!
2. How has the Spirit of the Lord anointed you? What gifts do you have that enable you to give to the poor (i.e., the financially poor or the emotionally starving or the spiritually hungry) or to heal the brokenhearted?
3. How has God used you to provide liberty to captives and release to prisoners?
4. How are these a testimony that teach others about Jesus?