



Liturgy Cycle A

## **Third Sunday Of Advent** **Preparing The Way**

### **Introduction**

In today's gospel we see Jesus at work: giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, healing to the lepers and so on. It is a marvelous display of compassion for suffering humanity. In this Eucharist we encounter the same compassionate Christ. Let us not be afraid to show him the various handicaps and wounds that we suffer from.

### **First Reading (Isaiah 35: 1-6: 10)**

This contains a thrilling message of hope for all those who may be feeling down. Isaiah say's: 'Cheer up! Do not be afraid. God himself is coming to save you.'

### **Second Reading (James 5: 7-10)**

St James stresses something that we all find hard, namely patience. He urges us to be patient with one another, and patient regarding the Lord's final coming.

### **Gospel (Matthew 11: 2-11)**

Jesus has tremendous words of praise for his cousin John, who is languishing in Herod's dungeon. The Gospel also shows Jesus at work.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray that, after the example of John, we may do our part in preparing a way so that Christ can come to our world.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the pope and the bishops: that they may faithfully watch over the flock of Christ, taking special care of the weak and the discouraged. Let us pray to the lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all leaders: that they may not glory in the limelight of their office but rather seek to help and serve other people. Let us pray to the lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



## Liturgy Cycle A

**That the dying may experience the loving presence of Christ with them as they near the end of life's pilgrimage. Let us pray to the lord.  
R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That we may do our work and carry out our duties faithfully and unselfishly. Let us pray to the lord.  
R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**Vincent van Gogh died at the age of thirty-seven.  
The following day eight of his friends came  
And decked the small room where his coffin lay  
With some of his paintings.  
It was only then they realized how beautiful they were.**

**Vincent had a very difficult life.  
He knew loneliness, poverty and mental illness,  
With few friends to support him.  
But now that he was dead, as often happens,  
Everybody was full of praise for his talents.**

**He once said:  
'I think that those who do not lose courage,  
and who do not become indifferent,  
ripen through it.  
One must bear hardship in order to ripen.  
Most people who know me consider me a failure,  
Still, life is only a kind of sowing,  
The harvest is not here.'**

**Today his canvasses are almost beyond price.  
Yet only one of them was sold when he was still alive.  
It sold for a few hundred francs.  
Vincent certainly did not reap an earthly harvest.**