

03RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 17 DEC 2023

HOME SERVICE GUIDE

A very warm welcome to everyone who has joined us for our worship service this morning.



REETING AND WELCOME

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Pink – Joy or Shepherd’s Candle)

Today, on this third Sunday of Advent, we light the third candle in our Advent wreath, which is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepard’s Candle,” The third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, as we light this candle, may we, your people, who await your coming experience the joy of salvation. For the desert places in which we walk, the streets we roam, the paths we cross; guide our feet and lighten our way. May all who seek the joy found in you, truly find it. Amen.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

CANTICLE 18 – The Wedding Song of the Lamb (Revelation 19: 1-2, 5-8)

Salvation glory and power belong to our God: **O praise him Alleluia.**

His judgements are true and just: **Alleluia Alleluia.**

Praise our God all you his servants: you who fear him small and great.

The Lord our God the Almighty has begun to reign: **O praise him Alleluia.**

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory: **Alleluia Alleluia.**

The marriage of the Lamb has come: and his bride has made herself ready.

She is clothed with the garment of righteousness: **O praise him Alleluia.**

With linen bright and pure: **Alleluia Alleluia. Amen**

COLLECT FOR PURITY (APB P 105)

Let us pray

**Almighty God to whom all hearts are open all desires known
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you**

and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord

PENITENCE

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments depend all the law and prophets.

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins (firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with our neighbour).

(Silence may be kept)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE COLLECT

Let us pray

God of hope and joy, you sent John the Baptist to announce the coming of your Son: inspire all who serve in your Church to prepare for his coming again by turning us from disobedience to your loving service; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

OUR PARISH PRAYER

Lord our God, thank you for calling St Augustine's to be your church in our city. Help us to welcome you in all people, to praise you in prayer and worship, to love you, through serving this parish and the community, to travel and grow in faith together, to be a community of love and service in our world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Word of God (APB p 107)

THE FIRST READING: 61:1-4, 8-11

PSALM: Psalm 126

THE SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

GRADUAL HYMN: SOF 223 I Lift my Hands

I Lift My Hands
To the coming King,
To the great I Am
To You I sing,
For You're the One
Who reigns within my heart.

And I will serve no foreign god,
Or any other treasure;
You are my heart's desire,
Spirit without measure.
Unto Your name
I will bring my sacrifice

THE GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

NICENE CREED (APB p 108)

**We believe in one God
the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ
the only Son of God
eternally begotten of the Father
God from God, Light from Light
true God from true God
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

SERMON

THE PRAYERS – FORM A

THE PEACE (APB p 115)

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances” and “May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 23)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Peace be with you.

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (APB p116) Use Your Home-Made Collection Boxes.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Afrikaans)

**Ons vader wat woon in die hemel, geheilig sy u Naam,
Laat u ryk kom, u wil geskied, soos in die hemel so ook op die aarde.
Gee ons vandag ons dag se brood
en vergeef ons al ons skulde, net soos ons vergewe die wat teen ons sondig.
Laat kom ons nie in die versoeking, maar verlos ons van die Bose.
Want U is die ryk en die sterkte en die ere,
vir ewig en ewig, amen. Vir ewig en ewig, amen.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty and everlasting God
we approach the sacrament of your only begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ;
as sick, we come to the physician of life;
as unclean, to the fountain of mercy;
as blind, to the light of eternal splendour;
as needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth;
as naked, to the King of glory. Amen**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER (APB p 516)

One who is unable to receive the Sacrament physically may make a spiritual communion, and be certain that Christ comes to them in this way as surely as he does in the Sacrament.

**Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, refresh me.**

**Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me;
Within your wounds hide me.
Let me never be separated from you.
From the malicious enemy, defend me.
In the hour of my death, call me, and bid me come to you
that with your saints I may praise you forever and ever. Amen.**

CONCLUSION (APB p 129)

**Give thanks to the Lord for the Lord is gracious
The Lord's mercy endures for ever**

**Father almighty we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

PRAYER FOR AFRICA

**God, bless Africa
protect our children
transform our leaders
heal our communities
restore our dignity
and give us peace;
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen**

FINAL BLESSING

Merciful God, grant us courage to be light bearers in the midst of darkness. May your blessings light our path, lead us to joy and inner peace as we hold fast to the good news of Jesus Christ the coming Messiah; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all whom you love and pray for today and always.
Amen (Adapted from <https://quotesmoon.com/sunday-blessings-that-light-up-positivity-and-joy/>)

DISMISSAL (APB 129)

**Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.**