

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2023

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

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Virgin of Guadalupe, painted tiles, Mission San Xavier del Bac, Tucson, Arizona.

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Psalms 126

- ✘ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- ✘ Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy;
- ✘ then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
- ✘ The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

- ✘ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- ✘ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
- ✘ Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

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1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. 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. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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John 1:6-8, 19-28 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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