

DECEMBER 11, 2016  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Advent is a season of joy.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                 |                               |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 11:2-11 | Jesus and John the Baptist    |
| Monday    | Malachi 3:1-4   | A messenger is promised       |
| Tuesday   | Isaiah 61:1-7   | The Lord's anointed one       |
| Wednesday | Matthew 9:27-31 | The blind receive sight       |
| Thursday  | Matthew 9:2-8   | The lame walk                 |
| Friday    | Luke 1:5-25     | The birth of John announced   |
| Saturday  | Psalms 146:5-10 | God lifts up those bowed down |
| Sunday    | Matthew 1:18-25 | Immanuel — God with us        |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The blind are now able to see, and the lame can walk. People with leprosy are being healed, and the deaf can hear. The dead are raised to life, and the poor are hearing the good news. **Matthew 11:5 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, give us joy as we wait for you in faith and hope. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

We praise you, O God, for you are good and faithful. You meet our needs of body and soul and fill our lives with joy. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who gives sight to the blind and who raises the dead, give you joy now and always. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Joy to the World*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time you have been filled with joy.
- In what way does Jesus' ministry stated in Matthew 11:5 describe what joy is like?
- How does Jesus' ministry bring joy to the world?

### DEVOTIONS

In the third week of Advent light the first, second, and third Advent candles and say these words.

*Say:* **This is the third week of Advent. We light our third candle, the candle of joy. Jesus' birth and earthly ministry gives us reason to be joyful. He came to save us from our sins and bring us back to God.** [The candles are lit.]

*Read:* Isaiah 35: 1-10.

*Pray:* **God, as we draw nearer to the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill us with joy and gladness. Help us to share the good news of Jesus' birth with others. Amen.**

### SERVICE

As you plan to give gifts to others, prepare a Christmas gift of non-perishable food items to donate to a local charity for an individual or household in your community.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Place figures from a nativity scene in different parts of your house. Each day, have household members move them closer towards the manger scene, so that they arrive on the day before Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, place the baby Jesus figure into the nativity scene.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)