

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17

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 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8

Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19

Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a

Ps 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17

Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 20

Isaiah 7:10-14

Ps 24:1-4b,5-6

Luke 1:26-38

Thursday, December 21

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a

Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21

Luke 1:39-45

Friday, December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28

1 Samuel 2:1,4-8d

Luke 1:46-56

Saturday, December 23

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24

Ps 25:4-5b,8-10,14

Luke 1:57-66

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

We know that Jesus is the Light of Truth shining 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 the destructive forces of our sins and follow our Savior to heaven. But what was the testimony of 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 desert." His testimony brings us to the Light of Christ by challenging us with: "Where is your life arid and dry? Listen! Christ is coming to meet you there! Stop wandering around! Repent, change, do whatever is necessary to look for Jesus so that you can find him. He is coming to you!"

We've all experienced times when Jesus seems unavailable when we need him. 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, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their sins, and to announce how to be blessed by a close friendship with the Lord.

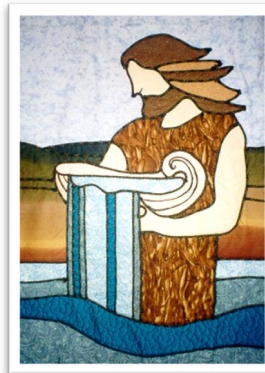
We all have the same testimony and the same calling as John had: We are all supposed to be voices crying out loud enough to be heard above the din of the world. Many souls are lost in the wilderness of confusion, hopelessness, pain,

heartache, and despair, not to mention sin.

What kind of a voice do you have? Because we have Christ within us, our very lives are the voice.

Even if our vocal chords do not utter a single word, the way we live in the light is how we speak the truth of the light. The better we live the truth, the louder and clearer is our message.

What people choose to do with our message is up to them, but it's up to us to speak it so that they're given that choice.



Reflect & Discuss:

- † How has your life been changed by your faith in Jesus? What evil has been conquered, what darkness has been overcome?
- † How has the Spirit of the Lord anointed you?
- † What gifts do you have that enable you to give to the poor (the financially poor or the emotionally starving or the spiritually hungry) or to heal broken hearts?
- † How has God used you to provide liberty to captives and release to prisoners?
- † How are these a testimony that teach others about Jesus?