

3rd Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

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 14
St. John of the Cross
 Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a
 Ps 25:4-9
 Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday December 15
 Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13
 Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23
 Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday December 16
 Isaiah 45:6c-8,18,21c-25
 Ps 85:9-14
 Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday December 17
 Genesis 49:2,8-10
 Ps 72:1-4ab,7-8,17
 Matthew 1:1-17

Friday December 18
 Jeremiah 23:5-8
 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19
 Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday December 19
 Judges 13:2-7,24-25a
 Ps 71:3-6ab,16-17
 Luke 1:5-25

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!"



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:

1. How has your life been changed by your faith in Jesus? What evil has been conquered, what darkness has been overcome?
2. How has the Spirit of the Lord anointed you?
3. 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?
4. How has God used you to provide liberty to captives and release to prisoners?
5. How are these a testimony that teach others about Jesus?

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