

Third Week of Advent – Year B

Opening Song: *See table of suggested music.*

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray.
Lord God, as we continue to prepare for the arrival of the infant, Jesus, at Christmas time, renew our feelings of joy and hope. Help us to remember our mission to do good works that will lead others to your Son. We ask this in your most holy name.

All: Amen.

Light 2 purple and 1 pink candles.

Leader: Let us listen carefully to God's Word.

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Sovereign Lord has filled me with his spirit,
He has chosen me and sent me
To bring good news to the poor,
To heal the brokenhearted,
to announce release to captives
and freedom to those in prison.
He has sent me to proclaim
That the time has come
When the Lord will save his people
And defeat their enemies.
Jerusalem rejoices because of what the Lord has done.
She is like a bride dressed for her wedding,
God has clothed her with salvation and victory.
As surely as seeds sprout and grow,
The Sovereign Lord will save his people
and all the nations will praise him.

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm: Luke 1 (Mary's Song of Praise)
Try CBW III # 24 or # 674 – 679 or Spirit and Song #95 or 96

Gospel Acclamation: Choose one that is familiar to your school community.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: God sent his messenger, a man named John
Who came to tell people about the light,
So that all should hear the message and believe.
He himself was not the light;
He came to tell about the light.
This was the real light – the light that comes into the world
And shines on all mankind.
The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites
To John to ask him, “Who are you?”
John did not refuse to answer, but spoke out openly and clearly,
Saying, “I am not the Messiah.”
“Who are you, then?” they asked, “Are you Elijah?”
“No, I am not,” John answered.
“Are you the Prophet?” they asked.
“No,” he replied.
“Then tell us who you are,” they said.
“We have to take an answer back to those who sent us.
What do you say about yourself?”
John answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah,
“I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert:
Make a straight path for the Lord to travel.”
The messengers, who had been sent by the Pharisees, then asked John,
“If you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet, why do you
baptize?”
John answered, “I baptize with water,
but among you stands the one you do not know.
He is coming after me, but I am not good enough even to untie his sandals.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reflection: *The leader or another adult may now offer a few brief thoughts on the readings and how they connect to the everyday lives of the school community. A few key points you may wish to mention are these:*

- *John the Baptist was faithful to his mission to point the way to Jesus, the Messiah. We are also called to a mission of pointing to Jesus in all the places where we can.*
- *Our job as an Advent people, is to testify to the light, who is Jesus.*
- *We need to realize that the poor and the brokenhearted are all around us and have many faces. We need to recognize them and to have the courage to reach out to them. These are the good works that we are called to do.*

Leader: Knowing God’s generous love for all of his people, we confidently place our needs before him.

The response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church, called to lead humanity to the light of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

For all the world's children, born and unborn, signs of God's gift of life, we pray to the Lord.

For people in our midst who walk in darkness, loneliness, and despair, we pray to the Lord.

For our school community here at _____ School, called to recognize God's presence in all things, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, you know all of our needs before we know them ourselves. Hear and answer our prayer according to what is best for us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

All: Amen.

Leader: Now let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.
Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace and friendship.

Allow a moment for everyone to shake hands.

Leader: Let us pray.
God, source of our joy, you hear the prayers of all who cry out to you. Make us more just and generous towards each other so that we may truly celebrate the coming of the Messiah into our hearts and homes. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

All: Amen.

Leader: And may we be blessed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Closing Song: See table of suggested songs.

CBW III	Spirit and Song
Prepare the Way # 317 Every Valley # 308 Listen, My People # 309 Let Heaven Rejoice # 557 O come, O Come Emmanuel # 312 Be Light for Our Eyes # 305 God of All People # 314	In the Day of the Lord #121 Christ, Be Our Light # 105 City of God # 106 Find Us Ready # 109