

**Year C; Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for December 12, 2021**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from *Isaiah 12*)

One: Surely God is our salvation;

**All: we will trust, and will not be afraid,**

One: for the Lord God is our strength and our might;

**All: he has become our salvation.**

One: With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**All: And we will say on that day; “Give thanks to the Lord,**

One: call on his name, make known his deeds among the nations;

**All: proclaim that his name is exalted.”**

One: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;

**All: let this be known in all the earth.**

One: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal people,

**All: for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Let us worship him —  
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (from *Luke 3*)

God calls us to repent — to completely reverse our direction and to follow him. Just as John the Baptist told those who came to be baptized to “Bear fruits worthy of repentance,” our fruits can often be lacking. Let us confess our failure to bear the fruit that God has called us to produce — good fruit.

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (30 seconds)

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (from *Luke 3*)

**Merciful God, we often like to take shortcuts. You call us to produce abundant fruit according to your will both through love of you and love of neighbor, but we often focus upon ourselves. Sometimes, we trust that since we can trace our lineage back to bold disciples of Jesus that we will be saved, but you, O Lord, could turn stones into followers who could replace us and be more faithful than us. Let us not trust in our lineage or our leaders or our past but dedicate our**

**present and future to your very worship and service. In the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah — the one who truly saves. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Luke 3)*

Do not put your trust in things other than Jesus — things that will degrade, fall down, and fail you. Put your trust in Jesus the Messiah. He baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire offering to put very God into you to guide you, to sanctify you, and to save you through the work of Jesus. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Zephaniah 3)*

**Loving God, you deal with the oppressor, you save the lame, you gather the outcast, and you change the shame and guilt of your people into praise. In the day of salvation, you will gather your people, you will bring them home, and you will make them renowned and praised. You will restore their fortunes before their eyes. For the work you have already completed and the work you will surely complete, we offer you these gifts for that very work. Amen.**

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

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