

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Introduction:

Lord God, as we turn to meet your Son,
may your Spirit help us to recognize more clearly
the demands of your justice and your truth.

Hear now, the prayer we now make

May your help be near for those who trust you.

(see Ps 84)

Reader

1. For the Church (*pause*): that like *John the Baptist* our lives may be lives of *witness*—witness to our living Lord, *witness to the Light*. *Lord, hear us.*
2. For a renewed sense of our identity and vocation (*pause*): that the realization *that we are not the light* would unlock for us the call to service and solidarity. *Lord, hear us.*
3. For a deepening of our Christian calling (*pause*): that—particularly in this troubled time—we may be sensitive to the *constant prayer* of our hearts, to the gifts of the *Spirit*, and the joy, and hope they bring. *Lord, hear us.*
4. For *the voices that cry in the wilderness*—for all who cry out in the place of hunger, violence, exclusion, and loneliness (*pause*): that their witness and work may *make a straight way for the Lord*. *Lord, hear us.*
5. For courage in the face of injustice and despair (*pause*): that apathy and fear may not paralyse us to what we can do in the face of *poverty and brokenness*, and when we are confronted with those help captive by prejudice and self-interest. *Lord, hear us.*
6. For a sense of mission (*pause*): that the Lord may send us forth in humility and meekness along the demanding but enriching path of seeking peace. *Lord, hear us.*

Presider

7. Lord, in these difficult times, we pray for all who are unwell or isolated or afraid; we pray for those who care for them, for those whose livelihoods are threatened; we give thanks for the dedication, skill, and generosity of those in our hospitals and nursing homes—that they know places and times of rest and recovery; we remember those who have asked us to pray for them, and our faithful departed (especially . . .): may *your peace may follow their steps*. *Lord, hear us.*

With tender comfort and transforming power
you come into our midst,
O God of mercy and might.

Make ready a way in the wilderness,
clear a straight path in our hearts,
that the advent of your Son
may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals.

We this prayer through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.