

DECEMBER 14, 2014

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ISAIAH 61:1-2A, 10-11

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

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REFLECTION

Gaudete Sunday — that's today — means rejoice. We're almost there. One more Sunday of Advent and then comes Christmas. Advent itself is also season of joy, of looking forward with happy expectation. Last week there were questions about "what." This week the questions are all about "who." The Jewish leaders need to know who John the Baptist is so they send messengers to ask. Is he the Messiah? No. Elijah? No. The prophet? No. "Well we have to tell them something," the messengers (basically) say to John. John quotes the prophet Isaiah to let them know that although he is *not* the messiah, John *is* the one preparing the way for the Messiah to come. Our First Reading is also from Isaiah and gives more signs about who the Messiah will be. He will bring good news to the poor and heal the broken-hearted. He will proclaim liberty and release to captives and prisoners.

ACTION

Listen to the song "Ready the Way" by Curtis Stephan a few times this week (www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxyKS7fW8ug) and take a few minutes in a quiet place each day to prepare a place in your heart for Jesus to enter on Christmas.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What brings you joy?
- Imagine that you are John and the messengers have come to ask about the Messiah. What would you tell them?