



ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH, MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

FR. PAUL CONNOLLY, CELEBRANT

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — DECEMBER 12 & 13, 2020

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.**

GREETING

PENITENTIAL ACT Lord, have mercy.....Christ, have mercy.Lord, have mercy.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
 From this day all generations will call me blessed:

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
 He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: *and by the Holy Spirit (bow) was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL “Lord, hear our prayer.”

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

Priest: ".....that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father,"

All respond: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

The Eucharistic Prayer

PREFACE

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**

HOLY

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

**Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SIGN OF PEACE

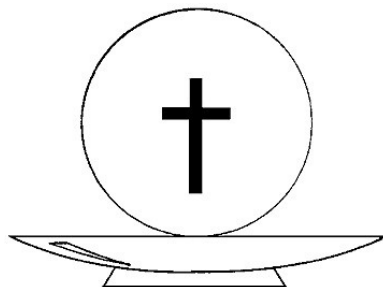
LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**



AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION—*ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI*

All: **My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

COMMUNION PROCESSION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

DISMISSAL