December 13, 2026

First Reading

A reading from Isaiah

[1] The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
[3] to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
[4] They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

[8] For I, the LORD, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
[9] Their descendants shall be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

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10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

December 13, 2026

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Third Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting three candles.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Strengthen our hearts
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

May he give water to all who thirst,
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

Amen.