Proper for December 17, 2023, the Third Sunday of Advent

Theme: “Enlarging our Borders in Joy”

Collect of the Day:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Old Testament Proclamation: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 10-62: 4

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126

New Testament Proclamation: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel Proclamation: John 1: 6-8; 19-28

Gradual Verse:

I rejoice in Your Word as one who finds great riches.

Prayers of the People:

You may use Form 1, (ICCEC Lectionary) *or the following:*

Deacon: Dearly beloved, the Lord keeps faith forever, and reigns for all generations. Let us lift our prayers to Him.

Minister: O Source of our joy, we lift before You all Your children. Restore the joy of those who have strayed from Your ways;

*People: As they return unto You.*

Minister: Restore the joy of the contentious and the mournful;

*People: As they see anew the true Image of Your redemptive Nature.*

Minister: Restore the joy of those affected by storm, flood, drought, and earthquake;

*People: As You bless their land with abundant fruitfulness.*

Minister: Restore the joy of the innocent victims and the oppressed;

*People: As You execute justice for them.*

Minister: Restore the joy of the fatherless and the widow;

*People: As You support their lot.*

Minister: Restore the joy of all those who are patiently enduring hardship;

*People: As You reward their hope and faith.*

Minister: Restore the joy of those who are weary in their labors;

*People: As You restore their strength.*

Minister: Restore the joy of the ailing and infirmed;

*People: As You restore them to health.*

Deacon: Restore unto this Church under Construction facilities to proclaim Your great Name;

*People: As You answer our Corporate Petition.*

# The Concluding Collect:

Presider: Grant, O God, that like as John prepared the way for Your Son’s footsteps, we Your people would share His Spirit of restoration, that all might recognize Your work in Christ. We ask this for the sake of His Name. ***Amen.***

# Proper Preface:

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the prophets foretold Him, the Virgin Mother longed for Him with love beyond all telling, and John the Baptist sang of His coming and proclaimed His presence when He came.

It is by His gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of His Nativity, so that He may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in His praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, with thrones and dominions, and with all the hosts and powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Benediction:

May He Whose second coming in power and great glory we await make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love; and the blessing of God Almighty: ✠ the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. ***Amen.***