

Malachi 3:1-6

¹“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts.²“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner’s fire And like launderer’s soap.³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.⁴“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years.⁵And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien— Because they do not fear Me,” Says the LORD of hosts.⁶“For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

¹Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but

He who judges me is the Lord.

⁵Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.

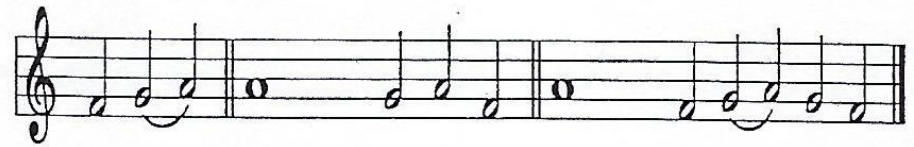
Matthew 11:2-10

²And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” ⁴Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵“*The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

⁶“And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” ⁷As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸“But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments?

Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ houses. ⁹“But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰“For this is *he* of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.’

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (VIOLET) PSALM 132 (MATINS)/98 (VESPERS)

**Introit.**

Ant. RE- JOICE || in the | Lord | al- | way: and again | I | say, | Re- | joice.

|| Let your moderation be known | to | all | men: the | Lord | is | at | hand.

|| Be careful | for | noth- | ing:

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made | known | un- | to | God.

Psalm. || LORD, Thou hast been favorable un- | to | Thy | land:

Thou hast brought back the captiv- | ity | of | Ja- | cob.

GLO- RY || be to the Father and | to | the | Son:

and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost.

AS IT || was in the beginning, is now, and ev- | er | shall | be: world with | out | end. | A- | men. (*Ant. repeated.*)

Collect.

Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts, by Thy gracious visitation; Who livest and reignest, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.*

(Also: Collect for First Sunday in Advent)

Epistle. 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. **Gospel.** Matthew 11:2-10.

Gradual.

|| Thou that dwellest between the Cheru- | bim, | shine | forth: stir up | Thy | strength | and | come.

|| Give ear, O Shepherd of | Is- | ra- | el:

Thou that leadest Jo- | seph | like | a | flock.

|| Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Stir | up | Thy | strength: and come and save us. | Hal- | le- | lu- | jah.

Gaudete - 3rd Sunday in Advent
 3. The Only Son from Heaven

Elisabeth Cruciger, 1524

7, 6, 7, 6, 7, 7, 6.
 German, 1524

1. The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore -
 2. O time of God ap - point - ed, O
 3. O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en, To

told by an - cient seers, By God, the Fa - ther,
 bright and ho - ly morn! He comes, the King an -
 know and love Thee more, In faith to stand un -

giv - en, In hu - man shape ap - pears;
 oint - ed, The Christ, the vir - gin - born;
 shak - en, In Spi - rit to a - dore,

No sphere His light con - fin - ing,
 His home on earth He mak - eth,
 That we still heav'n - ward hast - ing,

No star so bright - ly shin - ing
 And man of heav'n par - tak - eth,
 Yet here Thy joy fore - tast - ing,

As He, our Mor - ning Star.
 Of life a - gain an heir.
 May reap its ful - ness there. A - men.

Communion Psalm: Ant. Say to them that are of a fearful heart:
 Be strong, fear not; behold your God will come and save you
 (Isaiah 35:4). **Isaiah 55:6-11**