



# CONSOLATA SHRINE

## Third Sunday of Advent

### Year A



11th December 2016

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6a.10

*“God himself will come and save you.”*

**A reading from the Book of Isaiah**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the lily it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of fearful heart, “Be strong, fear not! Behold your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*The word of the Lord*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146:6-10

**Response. Come, Lord, and save us.**

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord who sets prisoners free. **(Response)**

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord who protects the stranger. **(Response)**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign forever,  
the God of Sion from age to age. **(Response)**



#### SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

*“Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”*

**A reading from the Letter of Saint James**

Be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the doors. As an example of suffering and patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*The word of the Lord*



## Alleluia

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he has sent me to preach good news to the poor.

## Alleluia

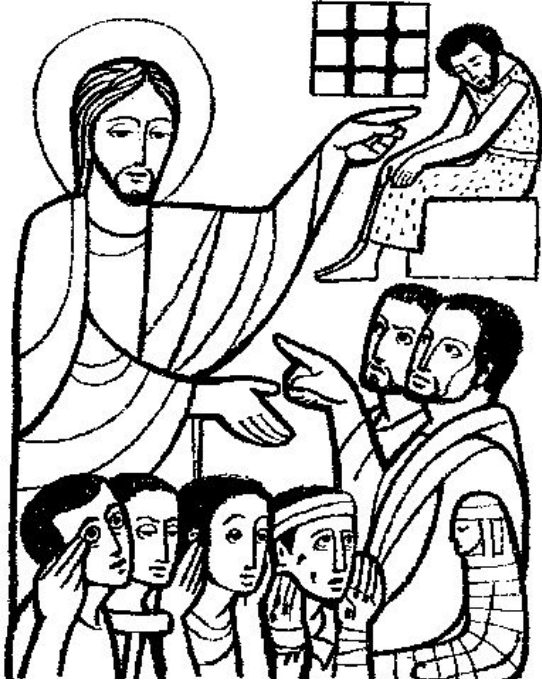


## GOSPEL

Mathew 11:2-11

***“Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?”***

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**



In those days: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?” and Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offence at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man dressed in soft robes? Behold, those who wear soft robes are in kings’ houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it

is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you.’ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

***The Gospel of the Lord***

## REFLECTION

**THEME: HERE IS YOUR GOD by Dr. Scott Hahn**

John questions Jesus from prison in today’s Gospel—for his disciples’ sake and for ours. He knows that Jesus is doing “the works of the Messiah,” foretold in today’s First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us. The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor.

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord. As James advises in today’s Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide. John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior. We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning

sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongues to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving. Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

### ITENGENEZENI NJIA YA BWANA

*{Itengenezeni njia ya Bwana, Bwana apite (mapito yake)*

*Yanyoosheni mapito ya Mungu wetu aingie}x2*

1. Tazama namtuma mjumbe wangu, mbele ya uso wako,  
Atakayeitengeneza njia yako,  
Sauti ya mtu, aliaye nyikani nyikani inasema x2
2. Ondoka ee Yerusalemu, usimame juu  
Tazama uione furaha,  
Inayokujia, kutoka kwake Mungu,

- Mungu wako x2
3. Yajazeni yale mabonde yote yashusheni milima,  
Panyosheni na pale palipopotoka  
Tayarisheni njia na mapito ya Bwana aingie x2
  4. Na watu wote wenye mwili, wataona wokovu,  
Wataona wokovu wake Mungu wetu,  
Kwa sababu yeye atakayetukujia ni mwokozi x2

### THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

#### Lightening the Third Candle of the Advent Wreath

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents Joy. During this Sunday, the readings lead us to be happy trusting in the realization of the Promise of God, in the coming of Jesus Christ. The source of our Joy is He, and in Him we find strength and real light to our lives.

During this week the father prays:

**"O Lord, we beg You, incline your ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of your visitation. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen."**

The mother then lights the two previously lit purple candles plus the rose candle.

**O Key of David, Jesus Christ,  
the gates of heaven open at your command,  
come and show us the way to salvation.**

You can also...

- Light the 1st purple candle (repeat 1st week's prayer)
- Light the 2nd purple candle (repeat 2nd week's prayer)
- Light the rose candle (recite the prayers above)

Scriptures for your reflection:

**Isaiah 9:6-7, John 1:19-34, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Philippians 2:1-11**



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tomorrow is a Public Holiday. All Masses will follow the Saturday Schedule.
2. The Junior Youth Annual Camp will be held from Tuesday 13th Dec – Friday 16th December at Lake Crescent, Naivasha. The cost is Ksh 4,500, all inclusive. All young people age 13 – 18 years are welcome. Please collect registration forms outside the Church.

3. Next Saturday 17th, Blessed Sr. Irene Stefani Nyaatha Small Christian Community will be visiting Kenyatta National Hospital, Paediatric wing to bring cheer and joy to the children there. We invite you all to join us in person and/or in kind. They have made a special request for plastic seats. These chairs will be used by the children's mothers who sometimes sleep by their bedsides, watching over their children. Each chair will cost Ksh 500/=.
- Your support will be highly appreciated. For more information please contact Ashah on 0722 653 262 or Lee on 0722 600 606.
4. The Parish is organizing the Pilgrimage to Holy Land during lent in preparation for Easter. More information will be available very soon.
5. The Family Calendars for 2017 are available at the desk outside the Church and in the bookshop. Get a copy for your loved ones.

### WEEKLY MEETING

- Liturgy Committee on Wednesday 14th at 12:30pm

### CONSOLATA SHRINE'S SHORT MESSAGE SERVICE (SMS)

For renewal, registration and verification of details for the Consolata Shrine's Short Message Service (SMS), please visit the Parish Office. The service has enabled great sharing on the word of God, activities and events at the Shrine and other important notices for your information.

**Cost: Kshs 300/ year**

**Mpesa – Paybill no. 508702**

**Period: 2016 - October 2017**

**Account: your (first) name**

### CONSOLATA SHRINE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Let's use social media to spread God's word.

Remember to "follow" and "like" us.

 @ConsoShrine

 Consolata Shrine, Westlands, Nairobi

### DAILY READING

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7.15-17; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2.9-13; Ps 34:2-3.17-19.23;

Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6-8.18.21-25; Ps 85:(.11-14;

Lk 7:19-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2.4-6.11-13; Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Is 56:1-2.6-8; Ps 67:2-3.5.7-8; Jn 5:33-36

**Saturday:** Gen 49:2.8-10; Ps 72:2.3-4.7-8.17;

Mt 1:1-17

### SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

**Sunday:** 7.30 am **Kiswahili**

9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon and 5:30 pm **English**

**Saturday: English** 7.00 am, 9.00 am and 5.30 pm

**Monday to Friday: English** 7:00 am and 1.15 pm, 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

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