



ADVENT
WEEK 3

Lectionary for Dec 11

- Isaiah 35.1-10
- Psalm 146.5-10 or Luke 1.46-55
- James 5.7-10
- Matthew 11.2-11



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Deuteronomy 28.64-67:

Then the Lord will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other...Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the Lord will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life. In the morning you will say, “If only it were evening!” and in the evening, “If only it were morning!” — because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see.



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Exiles have:

- **Feeble hands** – refers to physical weakness or emotional weakness (disheartened, discouraged); picture of helplessness
- **Knees that give way** – people who are staggering, stumbling
- **Fearful hearts** – state of severe distress usually with a focus on future events; we might call it ‘dread’



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God comes to:

- **Bring vengeance** - takes account of the wrong suffered by his people
- **Bring retribution** - repays the wrong done to his people
- **Save** – liberates His people from bondage/captivity; defeats enemies; overcomes obstacles

When God comes creation is restored



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When God comes:

- **People are healed** – blind, deaf, mute and lame
- **A way is made back to Jerusalem**
 - **Temple** – is in Jerusalem, this is the only place to worship God
 - **Way** = major, graded road; i.e. a highway
 - **Only for the redeemed** – those set free/rescued from Exile



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Jesus in Isaiah 35

- **Jesus is God arriving on the scene**
- **Jesus** = the Lord saves
- **Immanuel** = God with us
- **John 1.1** – in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God
 - **Word** = preincarnate Son of God
- **John 1.14** – The Word (the preincarnate Son of God) became flesh (incarnated; was born to Joseph and Mary and named Jesus) and made His dwelling (lived) among us.



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Jesus in Isaiah 35

- **Creation won't be restored until Jesus returns**
- **Rom 8.20-21** - For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.
- **Revelation 21.1** - Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.



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Jesus in Isaiah 35

- Jesus healed the sick during His ministry and saw these miracles as proof that He was the Messiah
- **Luke 7.22-23:** Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 23 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.



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Jesus in Isaiah 35

- **He is the Way back to the Father**
- **John 14.6:** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



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From Psalm 103

I praise You Lord with all my soul;
With all my inmost being,
I praise Your holy name.

You are compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger, abounding in love.

You do not treat me as my sins deserve
Or repay me according to my iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the
Earth,

So great is Your love for those who fear You;
As far as the east is from the west,
So far have You removed my transgressions
from me.



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I praise You Lord, my soul,
And I will not forget all of Your benefits:

- You forgive all of my sins,
- You heal all of my diseases,
- You redeem my life from the pit and crown me with love and compassion,
- You satisfy my desires with good things so that my youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Give me grace to receive these benefits into my life as I take this communion.

Amen.