

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church**  
**The Rector's Lectionary Bible Study**  
**December 9, 2025**

**The Collect for Advent 3**

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 for ever. *Amen.*

**Isaiah 35:1-10 KJV**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

<sup>2</sup>It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

<sup>6</sup>Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup>And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **Psalm 146:4-9 KJV**

<sup>4</sup> His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

<sup>5</sup> Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:

<sup>6</sup> Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:

<sup>7</sup> Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners:

<sup>8</sup> The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous:

<sup>9</sup> The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

### **James 5:7-10 KJV**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

<sup>8</sup> Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

<sup>9</sup> Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.

<sup>10</sup> Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

### **Matthew 11:2-11 KJV**

<sup>2</sup> Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

<sup>3</sup> And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

<sup>5</sup> The blind receive their sight, 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.

<sup>6</sup> And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

<sup>7</sup> And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

<sup>8</sup> But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

<sup>9</sup> But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.

<sup>10</sup> For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

<sup>11</sup> Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.