THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 11, 2016
Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

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The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Luke 1:46b-55  My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

James 5:7-10  Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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Studies for the Hands of the Virgin Mary for the Annunciation. Frederico Barocci, Staatliche Museen, Berlin, Germany, ca. 1600.

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✫ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;
✫ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
✫ The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

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