The Confession

Many of his contemporaries thought that John the Baptist might be the promised saviour. But he had been sent only as a witness: his life's mission is to point to Jesus Christ.

Find the words from today's gospel and the first 16 of the remaining letters tell you what John says about himself.



N	S	I	Τ	A	R	S	M	Τ	N	M	0	Τ	Τ	Н
Α	Α	Ε	Ε	Ε	Τ	Ε	Ε	В	Ε	L	I	Ε	V	Ε
D	M	Μ	Ε	S	S	Η	M	L	Ε	Y	S	L	S	I
R	Α	Η	\mathbf{E}	S	Р	Τ	Α	S	Η	M	I	С	F	E
0	R	I	D	0	I	S	I	Т	Ν	G	I	\mathbf{E}	С	M
J	R	\mathbf{E}	R	Y	U	R	R	F	Η	Α	Z	I	Т	I
Р	N	Ρ	С	R	I	0	Α	Т	Y	I	0	Ν	Μ	Τ
Y	Р	Χ	\mathbf{E}	M	M	K	В	Η	Τ	V	\mathbf{E}	Z	Ν	N
Y	Α	J	L	F	Α	0	U	Р	Ρ	В	L	S	L	Ε
С	0	N	F	Ε	S	S	Α	L	Ε	V	Ι	Τ	Ε	S
N	Α	Μ	Ν	D	С	В	Y	Т	I	Χ	J	J	M	S
K	F	Η	K	Τ	Y	M	Η	С	K	K	Α	S	0	R
K	0	J	Χ	I	F	Α	U	F	Ρ	С	Η	M	Ν	N
J	K	I	F	M	Ν	Η	Α	I	Α	S	I	\mathbf{E}	K	S
M	I	Z	S	Y	Q	D	S	Q	M	0	F	J	D	V

ANSWER	ELIJAH	KNOW	PRIESTS
BAPTIZE	ISAIAH	LEVITES	PROPHET
BELIEVE	JERUSALEM	LIGHT	TESTIFY
BETHANY	JEWS	MAN	VOICE
CONFESS	JOHN	NAME	WITNESS
DENY	JORDAN	PHARISEES	WORTHY

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Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023



Today's lessons:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 God has sent the prophet speaking here to bring

good news to his suffering people: soon their

situation is going to change for the better.

Luke 1:47-55 Mary praises God after she has learned that she

has been chosen as the mother of the Messiah.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Paul ends his letter to the Thessalonians,

reminding them of the essentials of a Christian

life, starting with JOY.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 John's Gospel does not tell a Christmas story,

but starts with John the Baptist who tells everybody about the coming Messiah who is the

light of the world.









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Attitude Advice

The Apostle Paul tells the Thessalonians that, while they wait for the coming of Jesus Christ, they should

A.	sit in the corner and be quiet,		
B.	cry and be sad,		
C.	OR ICY AS A JEWEL,	or	
D.			

For the answer, rearrange the letters of C into a meaningful D!

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The Magnificat or Song of Mary

The poem we read in Luke 1:47-55 is often called 'The Magnificat'.

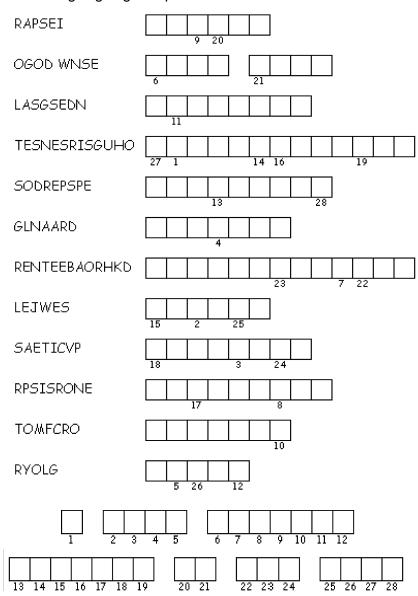
The title comes from the opening line of the Latin translation: 'Magnificat anima mea Dominum', which means 'my soul magnifies (or praises) the Lord'.

Specifically Mary praises God for taking the side of the poor and oppressed. And all Christians join her in that praise!

Traditionally, the Magnificat has always been part of Evening Prayer / Vespers. Usually it has been sung. So there are literally hundreds, if not thousands of different musical settings to the words! Try to find out if you are singing one of them in the service today?

The message of Salvation

Unscramble the words from today's Isaiah lesson to discover what feeling is going to replace the sadness of the Israelites.



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