

***Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way***

December 11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

***Isaiah 35:1-10***

***Psalms 146:5-10***

***James 5:7-10***

***Matthew 11:2-11***



***The Gifts that Jesus Brings Object: A calendar.***

Look at this calendar! Can you believe it? We are only a few days from Christmas! (Count the days remaining until Christmas.) Have you finished all of your Christmas shopping? The newspaper will be full of ads for those who have some last-minute shopping to do.

Well, no matter what gifts you will find under your Christmas tree this year, they don't compare with the gifts which we receive from the Christ of Christmas.

In our Bible lesson today we learn that John, even though he was in prison, was hearing about all of the wonderful things that Jesus was doing. He sent a message to Jesus by some of his friends. "Ask Jesus if he is the Messiah we have been expecting, or should we continue to watch for someone else?"

When Jesus was asked the question, he answered, "Return to John and tell him what you have seen and heard. You have seen the blind receive their sight, the crippled and lame are able to walk, those with leprosy are being cured, the deaf are able to hear. Even the dead have been raised and the good news is being preached to the poor."

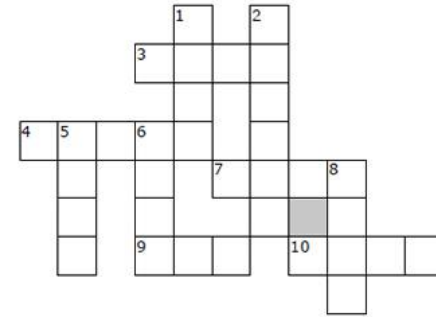
If you were blind, what better gift could you receive than to be able to see? If you were crippled, what better gift could you receive than to be able to walk? If you were dead, what better gift could you receive than the gift of life? Oh, by the way, that last gift I mentioned... the gift of life. That is the real meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to earth to give us life – abundant life here on earth and eternal life with Him forever! What a gift!

Father, every good gift we receive comes from you, brought down to us through your Son. Father, we thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia (Matt. 11:10)

**Crossword Puzzle**



**ACROSS**

- 3. To receive sound using your ears
- 4. Unable to see
- 7. Something that is pleasant or enjoyable
- 9. To be aware of what is around you by using your eyes
- 10. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other

**DOWN**

- 1. Not living
- 2. A place where criminals are forced to live as a punishment
- 5. Unable to walk correctly because of injury to or weakness in the legs or feet
- 6. Information or reports about recent events
- 8. Unable to hear

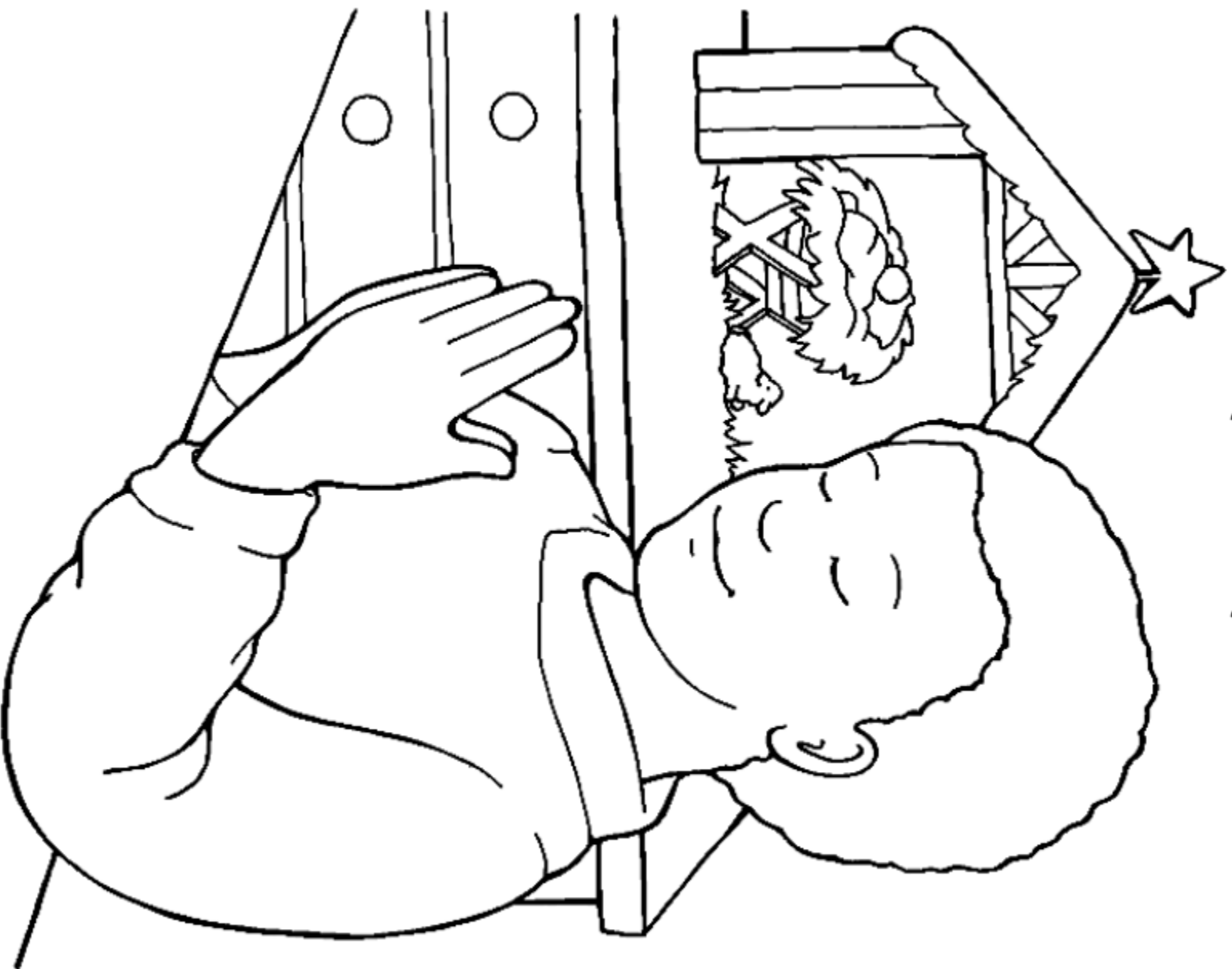
DEAF	SEE	NEWS	GOOD	WALK
HEAR	DEAD	BLIND	PRISON	LAME

**GIFTS TO WRAP:** Provide a small box for the child to wrap a small piece of candy or some other small gift that they would like to give to someone who needs encouragement. The gift should have a slip of paper to place inside that will say JESUS IS THE BEST GIFT.

**CALENDAR ART:** Give the child a calendar for December to decorate with JESUS BIRTHDAY and what THEY would like to GIVE to JESUS at Christmas! JESUS' BIRTHDAY can be drawn or written on the 25th and the other days can have other ideas of "What can I give to JESUS"?



THANK YOU, GOD, FOR JESUS.



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