

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

ADVENT 3 (YEAR C)

## COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Zep 3.14–20*

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

*from Isa 12*



℟. Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (*All repeat*)



Surely God is | my salvation;  
I will trust and | will not fear,  
for the Lord God is my strength | and my  
    might;  
he has become | my salvation. ℟.

With joy you | will draw water  
from the wells | of salvation.  
Give thanks to the Lord, call up- | on his name;  
make known his deeds a- | mong the nations. ℟.

Proclaim the greatness | of his name,  
sing a song of praise | to the Lord.  
For he has done | glorious deeds;  
let this be known in | all the earth. ℟.

Shout aloud and | sing for joy,  
all you that | dwell in Zion,  
for great in your midst | is the Lord,  
the Holy | One of Israel. ℟.

## SECOND READING

*Php 4.4–7*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
    Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,  
Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to  
everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry  
about anything, but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving let your  
requests be made known to God. And the  
peace of God, which surpasses all under-  
standing, will guard your hearts and your  
minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:  
he has anointed me to bring good news to  
the poor.

**Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

Lk 3:7-18

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ☩ of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with

unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

---

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, may the gift we offer in faith and love be a continual sacrifice in your honour and truly become our eucharist and our salvation. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**