



December 13th

Third Sunday of Advent

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this...

FIRST READING

(Zephaniah foretells great rejoicing and gladness when the Lord comes in their midst and removes the judgement against the people and turns away their enemies.)

A reading from the Book of Zephaniah (3:14-18)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear evil no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; let not 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."

This is the Word of the Lord

Psalm (Is 12:2-2,4bcd,5-6)

Response: Shout and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R./ Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name; make known his deeds among the nations, proclaim that his name is exalted. R./

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. R./

Second reading

(Paul invites the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord and to let go of their anxiety by living in prayer and thanksgiving.)

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians (4:4-7)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety 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 passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
This is the Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to preach good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(John the Baptist speaks of the coming of the Messiah, the one mightier than himself. He exhorts people of various professions to make amends in their lives and get ready to welcome the promised Messiah.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke (3:10-18)

The multitudes asked John, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him 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 is appointed you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong 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 granary, 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