

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13th December 2009

## First Reading

A reading from the book of Zephaniah

*With joy the Lord will rejoice over you.*

Zeph. 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## For the Responsorial Psalm

*The Benedictus, Luke 1:68-79*

**Response:** *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited his people.*

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel:  
for he has come to his people . and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty saviour:  
born of the house of his servant David.

R.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old:  
that he would save us from our enemies  
from the hands of all that hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers:  
and to remember his holy covenant.

R.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship him without fear:  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

R.

And you my child shall be called the prophet of the Most High:  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation:  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

R.

In the tender compassion of our God:  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us;

to shine upon those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **R.**

## Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Philippians

*The Lord is near.*

Phil. 4:4-7

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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!** The spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Lk. 3:7-18

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

**R. Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*What, then, must we do?*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at 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 should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and 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 proclaimed the good news to the people.  
For the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

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