

■ **Sunday between 4 and 10 December**  
*Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)*

**First Reading - Malachi 3.1-4**

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.  
See, I am sending my messenger  
ahead of me,  
to prepare the way,  
says the Lord of hosts.  
And indeed, the one you seek,  
the one you desire,  
the messenger of the covenant -  
I am, myself, coming to my temple, says the Lord.  
But who can  
endure that day?  
And who can stand  
when the Lord appears?  
For the Lord will come  
like a refiner's fire,  
to purify the people,  
refining them  
like silver and gold,  
until their offerings  
are once again  
pleasing  
to the Lord.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Philippians 1.3-6,8-11**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.  
I give thanks to God  
every time I remember you,  
and I am joyful  
in my prayers for you,  
because of the way  
you have shared  
in the work of the gospel  
from the time  
you first  
heard the word.  
And I am confident  
that the one who began a good work amongst you  
will bring it to completion  
on the day of Jesus Christ.  
With all the compassion of Christ Jesus,  
I pray for you earnestly.  
I pray that you may be  
so filled with love  
that your love overflows  
to all around you.  
I pray that you may grow  
in knowledge, and insight, and discernment.  
I pray that through Jesus Christ,  
you may produce  
a full harvest  
of righteousness  
to the praise and glory of God.  
And I pray  
that you may be found  
pure and blameless  
on the day of Christ.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Luke 3.1-6**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.  
In the fifteenth year  
of the reign  
of the emperor Tiberius,  
when Pontius Pilate  
was governor of Judea,  
and Herod  
was ruler over Galilee,  
the word of God  
came to John,  
the son of Zekariah,  
in the wilderness.  
John went out  
through all the region  
of the Jordan,  
proclaiming  
a baptism  
of repentance  
for forgiveness;  
as it is written  
in the book  
of the prophet Isaiah:  
'A voice cries out  
in the wilderness,  
Prepare  
the way of the Lord!  
Fill the valleys,  
level the hills,  
straighten the paths,  
and make  
the rough ways  
smooth.  
And all who live  
shall see  
the saving power  
of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.