

Sunday 13 December 2026
Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

First Reading - *Isaiah 61.1-2, 10-11*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God

is upon me,

for the Lord has anointed me

to bring good news

to the poor, the lowly, and the afflicted;

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and release to the prisoners;

to bind up

the broken-hearted,

and to comfort

those who mourn;

to declare

the day of God's justice,

and the year of the Lord's favour.

So let us rejoice,

and sing praise

to the Lord our God.

For as bride and groom

are prepared in fine clothes

for their wedding,

so the Lord

has clothed us

with salvation and righteousness.

And as a garden

flourishes in the spring-time,

so the Lord God

will make righteousness

and praise

flourish in every nation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *1 Thessalonians 5.16-23*

A reading from the first letter of Paul
to the Thessalonians.

This is the will of God for you
in Christ Jesus:

that you

rejoice always,

give thanks in all circumstances,

and pray without ceasing.

Do not quench the Spirit,

and do not treat prophecies

with contempt;

but test everything.

Hold fast

to all that is good,

and keep away

from all that is evil.

And may the God of peace

keep you in holiness,

in body, mind, and spirit,

for the coming

of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *John 1.6-8, 19-28*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

There was a man sent from God,
whose name was John.

John himself

was not

the light,

but came

to bear witness

to the light.

The temple authorities

in Jerusalem

sent a delegation

to the place

where John was baptising.

They demanded

of John, 'Who are you?'

And John

told them plainly, 'I am not
the Messiah.'

So they asked him, 'What then?

Are you Elijah?

Are you the prophet?'

And when John

said that he was not,

they asked him again, 'Who are you?'

Let us have an answer

for those who sent us!

What do you say about yourself?'

And John said

(using the words of the prophet Isaiah),

'I am the voice

crying out

in the wilderness,

"Make straight

the way of the Lord."

They asked him, 'Then why

are you baptising,

if you are not

the Messiah,

and not Elijah,

and not the prophet?'

And John answered them, 'I baptise in water,

but amongst you

stands one

you do not know,

the one who is

coming after me;

and I am not worthy

even to be

his servant.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.