

**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.