

**Sunday 12 December 2027**

*Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)*

**First Reading - Zephaniah 3.14-20**

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O Zion!

Rejoice with all your heart, O Jerusalem!

For the Lord has

taken away  
the judgements  
made against you.

The Lord has

turned away  
your enemies.

No more harm

will come to you.

Stay strong,

and do not fear;

for the Lord your God

is with you  
as a mighty saviour.

The Lord says, 'I will delight in you,

and sing, and rejoice.

I will hold you

in my constant love.

I will free you

from all  
your oppressors.

I will rescue the lame,

and gather in  
all who were driven away.

I will gather you together

and bring you home.

And instead of shame,

you will have praise,  
and honour,

in all the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Philippians 4.4-7**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord - always!

I say again, rejoice!

And let your

gracious gentleness  
be known to everyone.

The Lord is near,

so do not worry  
about anything.

But in everything, with prayer,

and thanksgiving,

let your requests

be made known  
to God.

And the peace of God,

which surpasses  
all understanding,

will protect

your hearts  
and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Luke 3.7-18**

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

When the crowds

came to the Jordan

to be baptised by John,

John addressed them,

saying: 'You brood of vipers!

Who warned you

to flee

from the judgement

that is coming?

Bear fruit

that is worthy

of repentance!

And do not begin to say,

"but we have Abraham as our father",

for I tell you,

God could turn these stones

into children of Abraham!

The axe is ready,

and any tree

that does not bear good fruit

will be cut down

and thrown into the fire!

The crowds asked John,

'What should we do?'

He said to them, 'Whoever has

two coats

must share

with whoever has none.

And whoever has food

must do likewise.'

Tax collectors came to be baptised,

and they asked him, 'Teacher,

what should we do?'

He said to them, 'Collect only

what you have been ordered to collect.'

Soldiers also asked him, 'And what should we do?'

He said to them, 'Do not extort money

using threats, and false accusations,

but be content with what you are paid.'

The people were filled with expectation,

wondering

whether John might even be the Messiah.

John answered them, saying,

'I baptise you

with water,

but after me

comes another who is

more powerful;

and I am not worthy

even to be his servant.

He will baptise you

with the Holy Spirit, and with fire,

and he will separate

the wheat from the chaff.'

With these, and many other

words and challenges,

John proclaimed the good news

to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.