

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.