

THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT



15TH DECEMBER – THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Service of the Word

Hymns

645 The holly and the ivy

20 All over the world

588 See amid the winter's snow

326 In the bleak midwinter

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your
messenger to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your
mysteries may likewise so prepare and make
ready your way by turning the hearts of the
disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the
world we may be found an acceptable people
in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Old Testament reading - Chris

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgements against
you, he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Psalm 146. 4 – end

⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on
that very day their plans perish.

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith for ever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

New Testament reading - Sue

Philippians 4: 4 - 7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord
is near. Do not worry about anything, but in
everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to
God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



Joy
Gaudia. Illustration to a text about joy. Page from the Tacuinum the Austrian National Library ca. 1390
 Österreichische Nationalbibliothek

The Gospel reading- Julie

Luke 3: 7 - 18

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what

should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



John the Baptist preaching

Zuccarelli, Francesco, 1702-1788

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow