

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year C

Season of Advent

First Reading † Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem — God will show you splendour.

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your garb of sorrow and distress,
put on for evermore the beauty of God's glory,
wrap around you the cloak of God's righteousness;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Eternal,
for God will show your splendour to every nation under heaven
and the name God gives you for evermore will be,
"Peace-through-Righteousness", and "Glory-through-Devotion."

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your children reassembled
from the setting of the sun to its rising
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing because God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, dragged off by enemies,
now God brings them back to you,
carried gloriously like a royal throne.
For God has decreed that each high mountain
should be brought low,
the everlasting hills and valleys
should be filled and the ground levelled
so that Israel can walk safely in the glory of God.

The glades and every fragrant tree
will provide shade for Israel at God's command;
for God will lead Israel with joy in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness which come from him.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial # Psalm 125

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Zion,
we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then the nations themselves said, 'What great deeds
the Lord worked for them!'
What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
as streams in the Negeb.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

They go out, they go out full of tears,
bearing seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading # Philippians 1:3-6,8-11

Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I thank my God every time remember you, and in every prayer of mine for you all, I pray with joy at your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, confident that the One who began good work in you will bring it to completion by the Day of Christ Jesus.

For God is my witness how much I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus; and this I pray, that your love for one another may overflow more and more with knowledge and complete understanding that will enable you to discern what is best, so that you may be innocent and blameless for the Day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ, for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation # Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel # Luke 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of the rule of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the territories of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the desert.

He went into the whole Jordan area proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of Isaiah the prophet:

*A voice of one crying in the desert:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill be levelled,
the crooked shall be straightened
and rough places made into smooth roads,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

The Gospel of the Lord.