

**Readings, Collect and Year's Mind
for Sunday 13th December & Thursday 17th 2020
Advent 3**

In our Year's Mind this week, we pray for: Margaret Reid, Sarah Campbell, Melville Bennett, Janice Gauld, Joan Gemmell, June Syme.

The Collect for Advent 3 is:

Stir up our prayers, Lord, and hear us:
that they who are sorrowful and suffering
may rejoice at the Advent of your only-begotten Son;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.
Amen

The First Reading is from Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 (Read by Duncan McKinnell)

The servant of the Lord said: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

1. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
2. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3. Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
4. The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
5. Restore our fortunes, O Lord like the watercourses of the Negev.
6. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
7. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy,
shouldering their sheaves.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading is from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 5: 16-24

My brothers and sisters, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading is from John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit,
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who lives and reigns,
now and for ever.

Amen.