

Sunday 12 December 2021

**3rd Sunday of Advent** ●

Liturgical Colour: Rose or Violet.

## Readings at Mass

**First reading**

**Zephaniah 3:14-18**

**The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Isaiah 12**

**The rejoicing of a redeemed people**

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,

he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name.

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds;  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

## **Second reading**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

### **The Lord is very near**

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.  
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

**Luke 3:10-18**

**'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'**

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.