

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing, O Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, O Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
O Daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.
On that day they will say to Jerusalem,
“Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.
The Lord your God is with you,
he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you;
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.”
“The sorrows for the appointed feasts,
I will remove from you;
they are a burden and a reproach to you.
At that time I will deal
with all who oppressed you;
I will rescue the lame;
and gather those who have been scattered.
I will give them praise and honour
in every land where they were put to shame.
At that time I will gather you;
at that time I will bring you home.
I will give you honour and praise
among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes
before your very eyes,”
says the Lord.

PSALM: 146

Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord, my soul.
² I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in human beings, who cannot save.
⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.
⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.
⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.
⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,
⁸ the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.
⁹ The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
¹⁰ The Lord reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord.

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.

GOSPEL

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “The person with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.”

Tax collectors also came to be baptised. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely - be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptise you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

POST COMMUNION

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 is alive and reigns now and for ever.



SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd December

09.30 COV: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)
09.30 SPA: Morning Worship (*Jill Dighton*)
10.45 KIM: Family Christingle Service (*Lay Leader*)
15.00 STO: Evensong (*Jill Dighton*)

Sunday 9th December

09.30 TIL: Family Service (*Lay Leader*)
09.30 EAS: Parish Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
10.45 KIM: Family Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
15.00 SPA: Messy Church: Christingle (*Lay Leader*)

Saturday 15th December

17.00 TIL: Christingle Service (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)

Sunday 16th December

09.30 COV: Morning Worship (*Lay Leader*)
09.30 STO: BCP Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
09.30 SPA: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)
10.45 KIM: Matins (*Revd R Lancaster*)
18.00 KIM: Carol Service (*Revd R Lancaster*)

Sunday 23rd December

18.00 EAS: Carol Service (*Revd J. Young*)
18.00 STO: Carol Service (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
10.45 KIM: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)

Monday December 24th

23.30 KIM: Midnight Mass (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
23.30 SPA: Midnight Mass (*Revd I Brennand*)

Christmas Day Services

09.30 COV w. TIL: Family Communion
(*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
10.30 STO: Family Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
10.45 KIM: Family Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)
09.30 EAS: Family Communion (*Revd J. Young*)

Sunday 30th December

10.45 KIM: Group Service

The South Leightonstone Group of Parishes

(*Barham & Woolley, Covington, Easton, Kimbolton,
Spaldwick, Stow Longa and Tilbrook*)



Sunday 16th December 2018

Third Sunday of Advent