

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

1st. READING (Bar 5,1-9)

Jerusalem, put off your garment of mourning and unhappiness, put on the splendor and glory of God forever. Wrap yourself in the mantle of oiliness that comes from God, put on your head the crown of glory of the Eternal One. For God will show your splendor to every being under Heaven. He will call your name forever, "Peace in Justice" and "Glory in the Fear of the Lord." Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights.

Look towards the East and see your children gathered together from the setting of the sun to its rising, by the voice of the Holy One, rejoicing because God has remembered them. They left you on foot, taken away by the enemy. God will lead them back, carried gloriously like royal princes. For God has resolved to bring low every high mountain and the everlasting hills, to fill up the valleys and level out the ground, in order that Israel may walk in safety under the Glory of God. Even the forests and the fragrant trees will give shade to Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy by the light of his Glory, escorting them with his mercy and justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 126)

When the Lord brought the exiles back to Zion, /we were like those moving in a dream. / Then our mouths were filled with laughter, /and our tongues with songs of joy. /Among the nations it was said, /"The Lord has done great things for them." /Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with songs of joy.

Among the nations it was said, /"The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord had done great things for us, and we were glad indeed. / Bring back our exiles, O Lord, /like fresh streams in the desert. /Those who sow in tears will reap with songs and shouts of joy. They went forth weeping, /bearing the seeds for sowing, /they will come home with joyful shouts, /bringing their harvested sheaves.

2nd. READING (Phil 1,4-6.8-11)

Every time I pray for you, I pray with joy. I cannot forget all you shared with me in the service of the Gospel, from the first day until now. Since God began such a good work in you, I am certain that he will complete it in the day of Christ Jesus. God knows that I love you dearly with the love of Christ Jesus, and in my prayers I ask that your love may lead you each day to a deeper knowledge and clearer discernment, that you may have good criteria for everything. So you may be pure of heart and come blameless to the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of holiness which comes through Christ Jesus, for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL (Lk 3,1-6)

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilatus was governor of Judea; Herod ruled over Galilee, his brother Philip ruled over the country of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the High Priests at that time when the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah in the desert. John proclaimed a baptism for repentant people to obtain forgiveness of sins and he went through the whole country bordering the Jordan River. It was just as is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: listen to this voice crying out in the desert: prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight. The valleys will be filled and the mountains and hills made low. Everything crooked will be made



straight and the rough paths smooth;
and every mortal will see the
salvation of God.

Prayer over the Offerings

**Be pleased, O Lord, with our
humble prayers and offerings,
and, since we have no merits to
plead our cause, come, we pray,
to our rescue with the protection
of your mercy. Through Christ our
Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

**Replenished by the food of
spiritual nourishment, we humbly
beseech you, O Lord, that,
through our partaking in this
mystery, you may teach us to
judge wisely the things of earth
and hold firm to the things of
heaven. Through Christ our Lord.**