

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Solemn Eucharist at 11 o'clock

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The readings today are dominated by a mood of joyful expectation. Like the Old Testament lection for last Sunday, Zephaniah 3.14-20 pictures a joyful Jerusalem, one that sees salvation on the horizon because God is in her midst. The responsorial psalm from Isaiah 12 consists of songs of thanksgiving for Zion's deliverance. In the epistle, Paul calls for his readers to rejoice in the Lord, who is at hand. The apocalyptic dimensions of the Lord's advent are stressed in the gospel as it summarizes the preaching of John the Baptist, concluding with the note that he "proclaimed the good news to the people" (Luke 3.18).

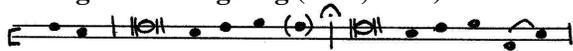
FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear evil no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. 'I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you together; yea, I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,' says the Lord."

The word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

PSALM: Song of Thanksgiving (Ecce, Deus) Isaiah 12.1-7; Tone IV.5



- 1 SURE-LY, it is **God** who saves me : I will trust in him **and** not be af-räid.
- 2 For the Lord is my stronghold and my **sure** de-fence :
and he **will** be my Sa-viöur.
- 3 Therefore you shall draw water **with** re-joic-ing :
from the **springs** of sal-va-tiön.
- 4 And on that day **you** shall say :
Give thanks to the Lord **and** call up-on his Näme.
- 5 Make his deeds known a-**mong** the peo-ples :
see that they remember that his **name** is ex-alt-öd.
- 6 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has **done** great things :
and this **is** known in all the wörlð.
- 7 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring **out** your joy :
for the great one in the midst of you is the Ho-ly One of Is-ra-ël

SECOND READING: Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN

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| C REATOR of the starry height, Thy people's everlasting Light, JESU, Redeemer of us all, Hear thou thy servants when they call. | 4 At thy great Name, exalted now, All knees in lowly homage bow; All things in heaven and earth adore, And own thee King for evermore. |
| 2 Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry Of all creation doomed to die, Didst save our lost and guilty race By healing gifts of heavenly grace. | 5 To thee, O Holy One, we pray, Our Judge in that tremendous day, Ward off, while yet we dwell below, The weapons of our crafty foe. |
| 3 Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride, As drew the world to eventide; Proceeding from a virgin-shrine, The spotless Victim all divine. | 6 To GOD the FATHER, GOD the SON, And GOD the SPIRIT, THREE in ONE, Praise, honour, might, and glory be From age to age eternally. |

*CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM
Sarum Plainsong, 7th cent.*

*From the Latin (c 6th cent.)
Tr J.M. Neale 1818-66*

GOSPEL: Luke 3.7-18

R/. Glory be to thee, O Lord

Then said John to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable. And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

The Gospel of Christ

R/. Praise be to thee, O Christ