

**COLLECT**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
 who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger  
 to prepare thy way before thee:  
 grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries  
 may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way  
 by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
 that at thy second coming to judge the world  
 we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight;  
 who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING****Zephaniah 3.14–20**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah*

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**SECOND READING****Philippians 4.4–7**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians*

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing 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.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 3.7–18**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*

***Glory be to thee, O Lord***

Then said he 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.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

**Praise be to thee, O Christ**

**POST COMMUNION**

We give thee thanks, O Lord, for these thy heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of thy Spirit  
that when our Saviour Christ shall come again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who liveth and reigneth now and for ever.

