

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, God will show your splendor.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery;

put on the splendor of glory from God forever:

Wrapped in the cloak of justice from God,

bear on your head the mitre

that displays the glory of the eternal name.

For God will show all the earth your splendor:

you will be named by God forever

the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights;

look to the east and see your children

gathered from the east and the west

at the word of the Holy One,

rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Led away on foot by their enemies they left you:

but God will bring them back to you

borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.

For God has commanded

that every lofty mountain be made low,

and that the age-old depths and gorges

be filled to level ground,

that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.

The forests and every fragrant kind of tree

have overshadowed Israel at God's command;

for God is leading Israel in joy

by the light of his glory,

with his mercy and justice for company.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

 (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,

we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

and our tongue with rejoicing.

 The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed.

✠ The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those who sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing.

✠ The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
they shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves.

✠ The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Show yourselves pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you,
because of your partnership for the gospel
from the first day until now.

I am confident of this,
that the one who began a good work in you
will continue to complete it
until the day of Christ Jesus.

God is my witness,
how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer:

that your love may increase ever more and more
in knowledge and every kind of perception,
to discern what is of value,
so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
filled with the fruit of righteousness
that comes through Jesus Christ
for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6

✠ Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

✠ Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,

when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,

and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee,

and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis,

and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,

during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,

the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,

proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:**"Prepare the way of the Lord,**make straight his paths.**Every valley shall be filled**and every mountain and hill shall be made low.**The winding roads shall be made straight,**and the rough ways made smooth,**and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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