

## 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.

## FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

*A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout,  
 O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all  
 your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The  
 LORD has taken away the judgements  
 against you, he has turned away  
 your enemies. The king of Israel, the  
 LORD, is in your midst; you shall  
 fear disaster no more. On that day  
 it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not  
 fear, O Zion; do not let 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. I will deal  
 with all your oppressors at that time.  
 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;  
 for 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.

## CANTICLE OR PSALM

Either Isaiah 12:2-6



Or Psalm 146:4-10

R *The Lord shall reign for ever.*

Happy are those who have the God  
 of Jacob for their help,  
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
 Who made heaven and earth,  
 the sea and all that is in them;  
 who keeps his promise for ever;  
 Who gives justice to those that suffer  
 wrong  
 and bread to those who hunger. R

The Lord looses those that are bound;  
 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
 The Lord lifts up those who are  
 bowed down;  
 the Lord loves the righteous; R

The Lord watches over the stranger  
 in the land;  
 he upholds the orphan and widow;  
 but the way of the wicked he turns  
 upside down.  
 The Lord shall reign for ever,  
 your God, O Zion, throughout all  
 generations. Alleluia. R

## SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I  
 will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness  
 be known to everyone. The Lord is  
 near. Do not worry about anything,  
 but in everything by prayer and  
 supplication with thanksgiving let  
 your requests be made known to  
 God. And the peace of God, which  
 surpasses all understanding, will  
 guard your hearts and your minds in  
 Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18

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

John said to the crowds that came  
 out to be baptised by him, "You  
 brood of vipers! Who warned you to  
 flee from the wrath to come?"

Bear fruits worthy of repentance.  
 Do not begin to say to yourselves,  
 'We have Abraham as our ancestor';  
 for I tell you, God is able from  
 these stones to raise up children to  
 Abraham. Even now the axe is lying  
 at the root of the trees; every tree  
 therefore that does not bear good  
 fruit is cut down and thrown into  
 the fire." And the crowds asked  
 him, "What then should we do?"  
 In reply he said to them, "Whoever  
 has two coats must share with  
 anyone who has none; and whoever  
 has food must do likewise." Even  
 tax-collectors came to be baptised,  
 and they asked him, "Teacher, what  
 should we do?" He said to them,  
 "Collect no more than the amount  
 prescribed for you." Soldiers also  
 asked him, "And we, what should  
 we do?" He said to them, "Do  
 not extort money from anyone by  
 threats or false accusation, and be  
 satisfied with your wages." As the  
 people were filled with expectation,  
 and all were questioning in their  
 hearts concerning John, whether  
 he might be the Messiah, John  
 answered all of them by saying,  
 "I baptise you with water; but one  
 who is more powerful than I is  
 coming; I am not worthy to untie the  
 thong of his sandals. He will baptise  
 you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
 His winnowing-fork is in his hand,  
 to clear his threshing-floor and to  
 gather the wheat into his granary;  
 but the chaff he will burn with  
 unquenchable fire." So, with many  
 other exhortations, he proclaimed  
 the good news to the people.

## 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.



The Lord shall reign for ever.