

05 December 2021 - Second Sunday of Advent

The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Baruch 5.1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction,
O Jerusalem, and put on for ever
the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness
that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem
of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendour everywhere
under heaven.
For God will give you evermore the name,
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look towards the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
For God has ordered that every high mountain
and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness
that come from him.

Second Reading

Philippians 1.3-11

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I
remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one
of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in
the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of
this, that the one who began a good work among you will
bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right
for me to think this way about all of you, because you

hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace
with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and
confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I
long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.
And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more
and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to
determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you
may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest
of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the
glory and praise of God.

Gospel

Luke 3.1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius,
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod
was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the
region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of
Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and
Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah
in the wilderness. He went into all the region around 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,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.