

## 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-end

*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 Isaiah 12:2-end

**R** *Shout aloud and sing for joy,  
 for great in your midst is the  
 Holy One of Israel.*

Surely God is my salvation;  
 I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
 for the LORD God is my strength  
 and my might;  
 he has become my salvation.  
 With joy you will draw water  
 from the wells of salvation. **R**

And you will say on that day:  
 Give thanks to the LORD,  
 call on his name;  
 make known his deeds among the  
 nations;  
 proclaim that his name is exalted.  
 Sing praises to the LORD,  
 for he has done gloriously;  
 let this be known in all the earth. **R**

*[Shout aloud and sing for joy, O  
 royal Zion,  
 for great in your midst is the Holy  
 One of Israel.]*

## Or Psalm 146.4-end

## 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.