



# Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 16, 2018

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

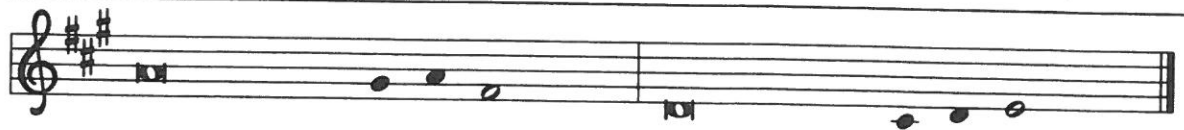
Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the  
judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your  
midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to  
Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
<sup>17</sup>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  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach  
for it.  
<sup>19</sup>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.  
<sup>20</sup>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.

## Psalmody

Isaiah 12:2-6; tone 3



Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not <sup>1</sup> be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength  
and my might,  
and has become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.  
<sup>3</sup>With joy you <sup>1</sup> will draw water  
from the wells <sup>1</sup> of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:  
Give thanks to the LORD,  
call <sup>1</sup> on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the  
LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name  
<sup>1</sup> is exalted.

*continued*

**<sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD,  
who has done <sup>1</sup> gloriously;  
let this be known in <sup>1</sup> all the earth.**

**<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy,  
O <sup>1</sup> royal Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy <sup>1</sup> One of Israel.**

## Second Reading

**Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication

with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel

**Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax 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."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>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."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize 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 baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**TODAY'S READINGS December 16, 2018**

**Volume 50, Number 1**

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 [46-55].

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$3.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our Web site at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year C.