

First Reading (Baruch 5:1-9)

A Reading from the Prophet Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever 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 splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward 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.

The word of the Lord.

Second Reading (Philippians 1:3-11)

A Reading from the letter to the Philippians.

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 defense 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.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading (Luke 3:1-6)

Reader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And also with you.*

Reader: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*

People: *Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

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 Iturea 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."

Reader: *The Gospel of Christ.*

People: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Canticle 19 (Luke 1:68-79)

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

Together...

Refrain **In his time shall peace and justice flourish.**

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

Together...

Refrain **In his time shall peace and justice flourish.**

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Together...

Refrain **In his time shall peace and justice flourish.**

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

Together...

Refrain **In his time shall peace and justice flourish.**

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Together...

Refrain **In his time shall peace and justice flourish.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

Together...

Refrain **In his time shall peace and justice flourish.**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Together...

Refrain **In his time shall peace and justice flourish.**