

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my Messenger to prepare the way before me,
the One you seek will suddenly come to the temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—
indeed, is coming, says YAHWEH Omnipotent.

But who can endure the day of that coming,
and who can stand firm when that One appears?
That day will be like a smelter's fire, a launderer's soap.
The One will preside as refiner and purifier,
purifying the Children of Levi, refining them like gold and silver –
then they will once again make offerings to YAHWEH in righteousness.
Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to YAHWEH
as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (*Advent II – Luke 1:68-79 Zechariah's song*)

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

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.

Reading continues – Over...

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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA! (*sung*)

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O God.

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.

John 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 our God, clear a straight path.
Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low,
the twisted paths will be made straight, and the rough road smooth -
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

This is the Good News.
Praise to you, O Christ.