



## LECTIONARY

### The Collect for Today

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING

#### ISAIAH 61: 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,

because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,

I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations,

and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in

my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

## PSALM 126

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*

we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, \*

‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us, \*

and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \* like the watercourses in the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears \* reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, \* bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

## SECOND READING

### 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

Officiant: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

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

## GOSPEL

### JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.



is

Officiant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

## Prayers of the People

Leader: Please respond to each of these prayers with the phrase: Come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray for the worldwide Anglican Communion especially for the Episcopal Church of Wyoming;

We Pray... **Come Lord Jesus!**

We pray also for all in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, especially for St. John's Episcopal-Lutheran Congregation in Benson;

We pray. . . **Come Lord Jesus!**

As we learn of God's Kingdom

We pray with fellow Christians everywhere that we testify to the coming of the Lord.

Saying together: **Come Lord Jesus!**

We pray with the people of our Nation for God's guidance and wisdom.

Saying together: **Come Lord Jesus!**

We pray with the leaders of the world for peace and goodwill for all.

Saying together: **Come Lord Jesus!**

We pray with our local community for all those who are alone as we wait for the coming of our Lord. .

Saying together: **Come Lord Jesus!**

We remember those who are sick, poor, needy or suffering, (especially—)and any others whom we may now choose to mention ,either aloud or silently in our hearts.

*(Pause for people to mention names)*

Saying together: **Come Lord Jesus!**

We remember those who have died, especially.....and any others we may now mention.

*(Pause for people to mention names) .*

Saying together: **Come Lord Jesus!**

## Prayers For the Parish

Teach us Good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not heed the wounds; to work and not seek to rest; to labor and not ask for any reward. Except that by knowing we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**

## Transitioning New Life at St. Stephen's

Holy God, make us Holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us Love. **AMEN**