

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

God uses money to illustrate His power.  
*“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,  
that there may be food in my house.  
Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty” (Mal. 3:10).*

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.  
I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.  
Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.  
Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.  
The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

### SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But

the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**WE REMEMBER BEFORE GOD ALL PEOPLE  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN  
DISRUPTED BY VIOLENCE OR WAR.**

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE  
AND FOR NEW BEGINNINGS.**

✘ As we pray, let us remember Michael; the Bishop's Search Committee, Sue; Harriet; Pat; Eloy; Sharyon; Natalie; HT; Debbie; Nini; Francisco; Anita; Zoey; Alex; Abel, Angelo; the Juanillo family; Tori; the Klamka family, Sue; Joe; Tommy; Alan; Colin; the Austin family; Emily; Haley & Andrew; Joyce; John; John; Robert; Scott; Steve; Mike; Randall; Lori; Hollis & Denise; Keira

Our altar flowers are given in honor of  
Barbara Nation-Jackson  
by her husband.

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SIGN UP SHEET

is in the Altar Flower notebook.

Deadline is NEXT SUNDAY!

**We still have two Sundays in December in need of dedications — and January also!**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP.** Many thanks! At our December POW-WOW, we served 222 Supporters plus donations for a total of \$223 and had 38 wonderful volunteers. Merry Christmas and Blessings — Tracy Hare & Pattie Prosoy \*\*\* Please mark your calendar for our next POW-WOW — Saturday, January 6, 2018

### REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATES

\*\*We plan to deliver Christmas gifts to the Kahnodano-Kadinoko family this week! If you took a gift tag for this family and have not yet brought in the gift, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE be sure to bring it to the Church office Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 10AM- 2:30PM. Many thanks.

\*\*Thank you for your generous donations of furniture and household items. Room 7 is overflowing with all this LOVE! When a Refugee family comes to us, we will be ready to set-up their home to welcome them. Hopefully we will have news of a new family coming to us soon.

**ORANGE AIDE PRISON MINISTRY** Our next event is signing January Birthday cards, between services on Sunday, December 31st. A box in the Parish Hall will be provided for your continued donations of cards (Christmas and Birthday) as well as postage stamps.

**SOUL FOOD SUNDAY** We continue sharing the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly. We meet 9:10 to 9:55 AM. If you have questions, contact Dan Basche, Mary Grace Gannon, or Rose Hartley.

**FAITH THROUGH THE ARTS INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR NEXT ART EXHIBIT "WOMEN OF THE WORLD" RECEPTION FEATURING THE COLLECTION OF REV. CANON CARMEN GUERRERO — FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2018, 6 PM.** Rev. Guerrero will speak about her travels and her experiences collecting art. Refreshments will feature food from many countries. We realize this is a January 5th seems far off, but we don't want you to miss this, event. Be sure to put it on your calendar!. Friday, January 5, 2018.

**GOING, GOING, GONE!** That is the call of John Klems, our resident auctioneer. It's that time again for our Art Auction to be held April 14, 2018. More to follow, but if you have any art that you would like to donate, please notify Casey Klems at [kklems@cox.net](mailto:kklems@cox.net). This is a fun night, so mark your calendars!

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24

Carol Sing (Joyful Noise Choir /Congregation) 6 PM  
Christmas Pageant/Holy Eucharist Rite II 6:30 PM  
Carol Sing (Chancel Choir/Congregation) 8:30 PM  
Holy Eucharist Rite I 9 PM

*We will not have Sunday morning services on December 24*

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Holy Eucharist Rite II 10 AM

### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today	Nursery care	7:45–11:15 AM
	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite I</b>	<b>8 AM</b>
	Soul Food Sunday (CH3)	9:10 AM
	Sunday School (CH 2 & 8)	9:45 AM
	Youth Group (CH 6)	9:45 AM
	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
	Praise Band Practice	11:30 AM
Tue.	Tuesday Night Bible Study	6 PM
	Joyful Noise practice	7 PM
Wed.	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
	Vestry meeting (CH 3)	7:15 PM
Thu.	Women's Bible Study (MR)	6 PM
Sat.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Children's Party	10 AM
Sun.	Nursery care	7:45–11:15 AM
	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite I</b>	<b>8 AM</b>
	Soul Food Sunday (CH3)	9:10 AM
	Sunday School (CH 2 & 8)	9:45 AM
	Youth Group (CH 6)	9:45 AM
	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite II</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
	Praise Band Practice	11:30 AM