

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Generous giving always results in God's blessing.

*"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food
will also supply and increase your store of seed
and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness" (2 Cor. 9:10).*

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 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. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 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 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

CANTICLE 9 / THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

ISAIAH 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord,
for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and
will be for ever. Amen.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be

made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE HOLY 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? 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. 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." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 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." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**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:

✠ those in special need, especially Larry & Leslie; Michael; Kay; Taylor; Casey; Dianna & Kelly; James; Don; Doug; Bruce & Laurie; Wally; Kay; Jay; George; Kim & Dan; Al; Samantha; Charlie Kate & her family; Alfonso; Kelsey; Brody; Shoney; Robert; Lori; Keira.

Our altar flowers are given by Suzy Mortenson
Thanksgiving for the birth of Charlie Kate Schreck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Sign up sheets are in the Altar Flower notebook.

This Tuesday is the last day to sign up.

THE ANNUAL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY IS TOMORROW EVENING, 6:30-8PM AT THE JOAS. There will be Christmas Carols, S'mores by the fire, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Please invite your family and friends. See Pastor Joel to RSVP.

OUR FAITH THROUGH THE ARTS MINISTRY WISHES TO THANK ALL WHO ATTENDED OUR RECEPTION FOR THE NEWEST EXHIBIT. Erika Warren gave an inspirational talk about her outstanding quilt hangings and she very generously donates 20% of sales to our ministry and also to the widows of Ghana. If you wish to purchase one of these beautiful hangings as a Christmas gift, please see any member of the FTTA. Congratulations to Chris Johnson who was the winner of an Olive Garden gift card. Faith Through The Arts wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanks you all for your generous support throughout the year.

FROM DEACON KIM My family and I thank you again for all the love and support that you have given us these past few years. What a blessing it has been to serve along side you! The move to our new home went pretty smoothly. Dad has almost finished converting a shed in the backyard into a workshop. Our new address is 8530 E. Calle Bogota, Tucson 85715. (If you want to get in touch by phone or through email, just call St. John's office for that info.) After several weeks of discernment and prayer, I have been led to serve at St. Matthew's, just 5 minutes from our home. Their servant's heart reminded me so much of St. John's. If you are ever in Tucson, I do hope you will give us a call or stop in to worship with us. We miss our St. John's family and pray that you are surrounded by the joy of Christmas all year long. Blessings to all, Deacon Kim and the 2 Bobs

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today	Holy Eucharist Rite I	8 AM
	Card signing between services (PH)	9 AM
	Nursery care	9:30–11:15 AM
	Sunday School (CH 2 & 8)	9:45 AM
	Youth Group (CH 6)	9:45 AM
	Holy Eucharist Rite II	10 AM
	Praise Band Practice	11:30 AM
Tue.	Tuesday Night Bible Study	6 PM
	Joyful Noise practice	7 PM
	Bunco (PH)	7 PM
Wed.	Holy Eucharist Rite II	6:30 PM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:15 PM
Thu.	Women's Bible Study (PH)	3 PM
Fri.	Thrift Shop	CLOSED
Sat.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Children's Party	10:30 AM
	Thrift Shop	CLOSED
Sun.	Holy Eucharist Rite I	8 AM
	DOK meeting (CH 3)	9 AM
	Nursery care	9:30–11:15 AM
	Sunday School (CH 2 & 8)	9:45 AM
	Youth Group (CH 6)	9:45 AM
	Holy Eucharist Rite II	10 AM
	Praise Band Practice	11:30 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

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

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Holy Eucharist Rite II	10 AM
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FOOD PANTRY

Spam, oatmeal packets, cookies,
shampoo, conditioner

BLESSING BAGS

Travel size or individually wrapped please
 Cheez-its, travel sized Goldfish, Rice Krispie treats