

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY
November 28, 2021
First Sunday in Advent

WORD

FIRST READING: Baruch 5: 1-9 (Common English Bible)

Take off your mourning clothes
and oppression, Jerusalem!

Dress yourself in the dignity
of God's glory forever.

Wrap the justice that comes from God around yourself like a robe.

Place the eternal one's glory
on your head like a crown.

God will show your brilliance everywhere under heaven.

God will give you this name
by which to be called forever:

The Peace That Comes from Justice,
The Honor That Comes
from Reverence for God!

Get up, Jerusalem!

Stand on the high place,
and look around to the east!

See your children gathered
from the west to the east

by the holy one's word,
as they rejoice that God has remembered them.

They went out from you on foot,

driven along by their enemies,
but God will bring them back to you,
carried aloft with glory
as on a royal throne.

God has ordered every high mountain and the eternal hills
to be brought down,

and the valleys to be filled in
to level the ground

so that Israel may walk safely
in God's glory.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel

with God's command.
God will lead Israel with gladness
by the light that shines forth
from his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness
that come from him.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11 (CEB)

Paul writes, "I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God's grace, both during my time in prison and in the defense and support of the gospel. God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more

rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God."

GOSPEL: Luke 1:68-79

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of
old,
71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand
of all who hate us.
72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our
enemies,
might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
78 By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."