

Bible Readings For Sunday 13 December 2020 – Advent 3

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of^[a] Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.^[b] ² Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the
nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” ³ The LORD has done
great things for us, and we are filled with joy. ⁴ Restore our fortunes,^[c] LORD,
like streams in the Negev. ⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs
of joy. ⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with
songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

I Thessalonians 5: 16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.
¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but
test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.
²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May
your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a
witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might
believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
¹⁹ Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders^[a] in Jerusalem sent
priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but
confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”
²¹ They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”
He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.”
²² Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those
who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”
²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling
in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”^[b]
²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, “Why then do you
baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”
²⁶ “I baptize with^[c] water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not
know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am
not worthy to untie.”
²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John
was baptizing.