

READINGS FOR JANUARY 12, 2025

WORD

Psalm 51:6-17

- 6 But you desire honesty from the heart, teaching me wisdom even there.
- 7 Purify me from my sins, purify me with the hyssop branch and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- 8 Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me— now let me rejoice.
- 9 Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.
- 11 Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.
- 13 Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you.
- 14 Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.
- 15 Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you.
- 16 You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)

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The Holy Gospel according to the 3rd Chapter of Luke

Glory to you , O Lord

GOSPEL (Luke 3:1-22)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

- 1 It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was tetrarch over Galilee; his brother Philip was tetrarch over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was tetrarch over Abilene.

- 2 Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness.
- 3 Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.
- 4 Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, “He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him! The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth.
- 5 And then all people will see the salvation sent from God.’”
- 6 When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, “You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?
- 7 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones.
- 8 Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.”
- 9 The crowds asked, “What should we do?”
- 10 John replied, “If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.”
- 11 Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, “Teacher, what should we do?”
- 12 He replied, “Collect no more taxes than the government requires.”
- 13 “What should we do?” asked some soldiers. John replied, “Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.”
- 14 Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah.
- 15 John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize you in water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire.

- 17 He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”
- 18 John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people.
- 19 John also publicly criticized Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for many other wrongs he had done.
- 20 So Herod put John in prison, adding this sin to his many others.
- 21 One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened,
- 22 and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my Son, and today I have become your Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

GOSPEL HYMN (Baptized and Set Free)

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