

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021- SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

### **JEREMIAH 31:7-14**

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD; their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

### **PSALM 147: 12-20 PRAISE FOR GOD'S CARE FOR JERUSALEM**

*Psalm 146-150 all begin and end with Hallelujah – Praise the Lord.*

*What a great way to begin and end each day – with Hallelujah – Praise the Lord.*

<sup>12</sup> Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

<sup>13</sup> He strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

<sup>14</sup> He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

<sup>18</sup> He sends out his word and melts them. <sup>19</sup> He declares his word to Jacob.

<sup>20</sup> Praise the Lord!

### **EPHESIANS 1:3-14 THE WILL OF GOD MADE KNOWN IN CHRIST**

<sup>3</sup> God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

<sup>4</sup> He chose us (how) in Christ (when) before the foundation of the world (why) to be holy and blameless before him.

<sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup> He freely bestowed his glorious grace on us in the Beloved.

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ.

<sup>10</sup> As a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will.

<sup>12</sup> We were the first to set our hope on Christ.

<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> This is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## **JOHN 1:1-18 THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US**

*Luke includes the visit of the angel to Mary and the visit of the shepherds the night Jesus was born.*

*Matthew includes the visit of the angel to Joseph and the arrival of the wise men sometime later.*

*Mark begins with Jesus full grown.*

*John talks about how Jesus existed from all eternity.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.

<sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

<sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

<sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

<sup>13</sup> Who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

<sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

<sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.