### Entrance Antiphon: Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

### Reading I: Bar 5:1-9

This beautiful and hopeful prophetic call to Jerusalem from Jeremiah's secretary is remarkable, given that Jerusalem was a shattered ruin at the time of the prophecy. Yet the prophet saw the ruined city as a queen royally attired by God, a mother watching for the joyful return of her children and moving to meet them in a royal procession for which the way had been carefully cleared and leveled.

### Psalm Response: Ps 126

(R) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

This week's psalm is a communal psalm of lament, visible in the second half of the psalm. The first part of the psalm, which remembers the return from exile as God's great gift, is a preparation for the petition in the second half that God act now in the same way that God acted in restoring the nation after the exile.

### Reading II: Phil 1:4-6. 8-11

This address to the community includes Paul's prayer that God will continue to act in the people as God has acted in the past (an echo of the hope in the psalm).

### Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

Luke is careful to set John's ministry in a historical context: All of this happened in real time. The setting begins at its widest expanse, with the Roman Empire, and narrows to the area around Jerusalem. Here we meet John, son of Zechariah (and Jesus' cousin, according to Luke), who is preaching repentance as a way to prepare for the coming of the Lord God.

### Communion Antiphon: Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.
BAPTISMS
Second and Fourth Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Parents are required to attend a pre-Baptismal instruction class.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK
Please call the parish office (301-530-1550) when a parishioner is in the hospital, a nursing home, or confined to home and wishes to receive a visit or any of the sacraments.

HOLY ORDERS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE
If you believe that you or someone you know has a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, contact the archdiocesan Delegate for Consecrated Life (301-853-4576), the archdiocesan Vocations Office (202-636-9020), or one of your parish priests, or visit www.adw.org/allvocations.

NEW PARISHIONERS
We welcome new parishioners! All new parishioners are asked to complete a registration form available in the narthex of the Church, online, or come to the parish office. Please notify the parish office of a change of address, or if you plan to move out of the parish.