

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten
Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a
pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born
again
and made your children by adoption
and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy
Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who
announces peace, who brings good
news, who announces salvation, who
says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their
voices, together they sing for joy; for
in plain sight they see the return of the
LORD to Zion. Break forth together
into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his
people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations; and
all the ends of the earth shall see the
salvation of our God.

PSALM Psalm 98

R *Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.
The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown
in the sight of the nations. **R**

He has remembered his mercy and
faithfulness towards the house of
Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have
seen the salvation of our God.

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth
break into singing and make music. **R**

Make the music to the Lord with the
lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the
horn
sound praises before the Lord, the
King. **R**

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together
before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the
world,
and the peoples with equity. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors
in many and various ways by the
prophets, but in these last days he
has spoken to us by a Son, whom he
appointed heir of all things, through
whom he also created the worlds. He
is the reflection of God's glory and
the exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his
powerful word. When he had made
purification for sins, he sat down at
the right hand of the Majesty on high,
having become as much superior to
angels as the name he has inherited
is more excellent than theirs. [For
to which of the angels did God ever
say, "You are my Son; today I have
begotten you"? Or again, "I will be
his Father, and he will be my Son"?
And again, when he brings the
firstborn into the world, he says, "Let
all God's angels worship him." Of the
angels he says, "He makes his angels
winds, and his servants flames of fire."
But of the Son he says, "Your throne,
O God, is for ever and ever, and
the righteous sceptre is the sceptre
of your kingdom. You have loved
righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has
anointed you with the oil of gladness

beyond your companions." And, "In
the beginning, Lord, you founded
the earth, and the heavens are the
work of your hands; they will perish,
but you remain; they will all wear out
like clothing; like a cloak you will roll
them up, and like clothing they will be
changed. But you are the same, and
your years will never end."]

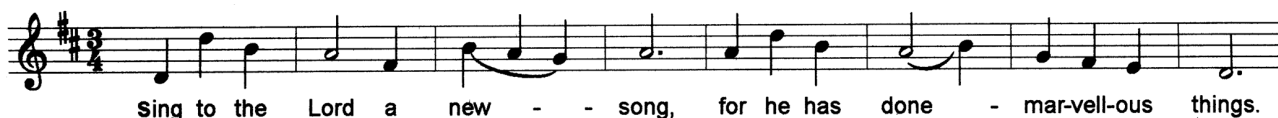
GOSPEL John 1:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.*

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in the
beginning with God. All things came
into being through him, and without
him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him
was life, and the life was the light
of all people. The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it. There was a man sent
from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to the
light, so that all might believe through
him. He himself was not the light, but
he came to testify to the light. The
true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world. He was in
the world, and the world came into
being through him; yet the world did
not know him. He came to what was
his own, and his own people did not
accept him. But to all who received
him, who believed in his name, he
gave power to become children of
God, who were born, not of blood or
of the will of the flesh or of the will
of man but of God. 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.

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our
hearts and shine in our words and
deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your
own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in
our humanity,
so we may share the life of his
divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my
God; for he has clothed me with the
garments of salvation, he has covered
me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with
a garland, and as a bride adorns
herself with her jewels. For as the
earth brings forth its shoots, and as
a garden causes what is sown in it
to spring up, so the Lord GOD will
cause righteousness and praise to
spring up before all the nations. For
Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and
for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like
the dawn, and her salvation like a
burning torch. The nations shall see
your vindication, and all the kings
your glory; and you shall be called by
a new name that the mouth of the
LORD will give. You shall be a crown
of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of
your God.

PSALM Psalm 148
(or 148:7-end)

R Praise, O praise the name of the
Lord.

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels;
praise him, all his host. **R**

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you stars of light.
Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens. **R**

Let them praise the name of the
Lord;
for he commanded and they were
created.
He made them fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not
pass away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and mist,
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and birds on the
wing; **R**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and women,
old and young together;
let them praise the name of the
Lord. **R**

For his name only is exalted,
his splendour above earth and
heaven.
He has raised up the horn of his
people
and praise for all his faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who
are near him.
Alleluia. **R**

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman,
born under the law, in order to
redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption
as children. And because you are
children, God has sent the Spirit

of his Son into our hearts, crying,
"Abba! Father!" So you are no
longer a slave but a child, and if a
child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL Luke 2:15-21

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

When the angels had left them and
gone into heaven, the shepherds
said to one another, "Let us go now
to Bethlehem and see this thing
that has taken place, which the Lord
has made known to us." So they
went with haste and found Mary
and Joseph, and the child lying in
the manger. When they saw this,
they made known what had been
told them about this child; and
all who heard it were amazed at
what the shepherds told them. But
Mary treasured all these words and
pondered them in her heart. The
shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all they had heard
and seen, as it had been told them.
After eight days had passed, it was
time to circumcise the child; and he
was called Jesus, the name given by
the angel before he was conceived
in the womb.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at
Nazareth the life of an earthly
home:
help your Church to live as one
family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home
in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.