

**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.

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.

**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, O praise the name of the Lord.

