

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

CHRISTMAS 1 (YEAR B)

## 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.  
**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Isa 61.10–62.3*

A reading from 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 148*



**R.** Alleluia, alleluia! We will praise the name of the Lord. (*All repeat*)



Praise the Lord | from the earth,  
you sea creatures | and all deeps;  
fire and hail, | snow and mist,  
stormy winds that o-bey his word; **R.**

Mountains | and all hills,  
fruitful trees | and all cedars;  
beasts | wild and tame,  
reptiles and birds | on the wing; **R.**

Kings of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;  
youths and maidens, old and | young  
together.

Let them praise the name | of the Lord. **R.**

For his name alone | is exalted;  
his glory is above | earth and heaven.  
He raises up strength for his people and  
praise | for his saints,  
for the children of Israel | who are near to  
him. **R.**

## SECOND READING

*Gal 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia.**

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets:

but now he has spoken to us through his Son.

**Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

Lk 2.15–21

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, Lord, the sacrifice we offer you, and through the prayers of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph grant that our families may be secure in your grace and peace; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 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. **Amen.**

## SOLEMN BLESSING

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children.

**Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**Amen.**

And the blessing ...