

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

2 BEFORE LENT (YEAR B)

## COLLECT

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Pro 8.1,22-31*

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

‘The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world’s first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 104*



**R.** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth. (*All repeat*)



Praise the Lord | O my soul;  
O Lord God, your glo-ry is great.  
How manifold | are your works!  
In wisdom you have | made them all. **R.**

All creatures | look to you  
to give them their | food to eat.  
When you open your hand, they are | filled  
with good;  
when you hide your face, they | pine away. **R.**

When you take away their | breath they die,  
and return to the earth | whence they came.  
When you send forth your spirit, all things |  
spring to life,  
and the face of the earth | is renewed. **R.**

The glory of the Lord shall | never cease;  
the Lord shall rejoice in | all his works.  
I will sing to the Lord as long | as I live;  
I will praise my God while my | breath  
remains. **R.**

## SECOND READING

*Col 1.15-20*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Heb 1.2*

*Alleluia.*

God has spoken to us through his Son:  
through whom he created the worlds.

*Alleluia.*

GOSPEL READING

*Jn 1.1–14*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, you bestow the offerings we make to your name, and provide us with the gifts for our loving service: mercifully grant that the grace you impart may lead us to our reward. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**