

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

CHRISTMAS 1 (YEAR C)

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

1 Sam 2.18–20,26

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

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

Col 3.12–17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with
one another and, if anyone has a complaint
against another, forgive each other; just as
the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must
forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with
love, which binds everything together in
perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts, to which indeed you
were called in the one body. And be thankful.
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wis-
dom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing
psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
And whatever you do, in word or deed, do

everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Heb 1.1,2

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 2.41-52

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.

Now the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these

things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

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 ...