

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.