



**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 2024 – CHRISTMAS 1**

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 lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 148

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; ♦
praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels; ♦
praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; ♦
praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, ♦
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, ♦
for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever; ♦
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, ♦
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, ♦
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, ♦
fruit trees and all cedars;

- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, ♦
creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, ♦
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together; ♦
let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, ♦
his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 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.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12 to 17

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 wisdom; 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.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

ALL: Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 2, verses 41 to 52.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search 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. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection from Peter

Just last Wednesday, not even a week ago, we celebrated the birth of Jesus – and here, today, he is twelve years old, and already behaving like a wayward adolescent! At first this all seems rather puzzling, but the main purpose of today's readings is to help us begin to grasp what it is to lead the new life that God opens up for us in Christ. It is the relationship between creation and this child that matters, the relationship between all that is in this world and the Word made flesh, this is what makes the difference – and it is pure gift. We didn't ask for it, – we couldn't have asked for it because we had no idea what could possibly bring life, love, peace and hope to a broken world – but God gave freely, out of love.

One of life's mysteries is the way that it is often easier to give something than to receive a gift. This gift is not like some Christmas presents that we appreciate, but are not quite sure what to do with. This is a matter of life and death and, today, God invites us to learn what it is to receive the perfect gift.