

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

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 angels of his;

praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars. **R**

Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the
heavens.
Let them praise the name of the
Lord;
for he commanded and they were
created.
He made them stand 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 fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars; **R**

Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged
birds;
Kings of the earth and all
peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and maidens,
old and young together. **R**

Let them praise the name of the
Lord,
for his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and
heaven.
He has raised up strength for his
people
and praise for all his loyal
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.