

COLLECT

Almighty God,
 you have given us your only-begotten
 Son
 to take our nature upon him
 and as at this time to be born of a pure
 virgin:
 grant that we, who have been born again
 and made your children by adoption
 and grace,
 may daily be renewed by your Holy
 Spirit;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

*A reading from the book of the prophet
 Isaiah.*

How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of the messenger who
 announces peace, who brings good
 news, who announces salvation, who
 says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their
 voices, together they sing for joy; for
 in plain sight they see the return of the
 LORD to Zion. Break forth together
 into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
 for the LORD has comforted his
 people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.
 The LORD has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations; and
 all the ends of the earth shall see the
 salvation of our God.

PSALM Psalm 98

*R Sing to the Lord a new song,
 for he has done marvellous things.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
 for he has done marvellous things.
 His own right hand and his holy arm
 have won for him the victory.
 The Lord has made known his
 salvation;
 his deliverance has he openly shown
 in the sight of the nations. **R**

He has remembered his mercy and
 faithfulness towards the house of Israel,
 and all the ends of the earth have seen
 the salvation of our God.

Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth
 break into singing and make music. **R**

Make the music to the Lord with the lyre,
 with the lyre and the voice of melody.
 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
 sound praises before the Lord, the
 King. **R**

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
 the world and all that dwell upon it.
 Let the rivers clap their hands
 and let the hills ring out together
 before the Lord, for he comes to
 judge the earth.
 In righteousness shall he judge the
 world,
 and the peoples with equity. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-4, [5-12]

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors
 in many and various ways by the
 prophets, but in these last days he
 has spoken to us by a Son, whom he
 appointed heir of all things, through
 whom he also created the worlds. He
 is the reflection of God's glory and the
 exact imprint of God's very being, and
 he sustains all things by his powerful
 word. When he had made purification
 for sins, he sat down at the right
 hand of the Majesty on high, having
 become as much superior to angels
 as the name he has inherited is more
 excellent than theirs. [For to which
 of the angels did God ever say, "You
 are my Son; today I have begotten
 you"? Or again, "I will be his Father,
 and he will be my Son"? And again,
 when he brings the firstborn into the
 world, he says, "Let all God's angels
 worship him." Of the angels he says,
 "He makes his angels winds, and his
 servants flames of fire." But of the
 Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is
 for ever and ever, and the righteous
 sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.
 You have loved righteousness and
 hated wickedness; therefore God, your
 God, has anointed you with the oil of
 gladness beyond your companions."
 And, "In the beginning, Lord, you
 founded the earth, and the heavens

are the work of your hands; they will
 perish, but you remain; they will all
 wear out like clothing; like a cloak you
 will roll them up, and like clothing
 they will be changed. But you are the
 same, and your years will never end."]

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to John.*

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 came
 into being through him, and without
 him not one thing came into being.
 What has come into being in him
 was life, and the life was the light
 of all people. The light shines in the
 darkness, and the darkness did not
 overcome it. There was a man sent
 from God, whose name was John.
 He came as a witness to testify to the
 light, so that all might believe through
 him. He himself was not the light,
 but he came to testify to the light. The
 true light, which enlightens everyone,
 was coming into the world. He was
 in the world, and the world came into
 being through him; yet the world did
 not know him. He came to what was
 his own, and his own people did not
 accept him. But to all who received
 him, who believed in his name, he
 gave power to become children of
 God, who were born, not of blood or
 of the will of the flesh or of the will of
 man but of God. And the Word became
 flesh and lived among us, and we have
 seen his glory, the glory as of a father's
 only son, full of grace and truth.

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
 whose Word has come among us
 in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
 may the light of faith illumine our
 hearts and shine in our words and
 deeds;
 through him who is Christ the Lord.

