

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.

