

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

1 Samuel 2:18-20. 26

A reading from the first book of Samuel.
Samuel was ministering before the
LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod.
His mother used to make for him a
little robe and take it to him each
year, when she went up with her
husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
Then Eli would bless Elkanah and
his wife, and say, "May the LORD
repay you with children by this
woman for the gift that she made
to the LORD"; and then they would
return to their home. Now the boy
Samuel continued to grow both in
stature and in favour with the LORD
and with the people.

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 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

Colossians 3:12-17

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Colossians.*

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.

GOSPEL Luke 2:41-52

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

Every year the parents of Jesus
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.

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.