

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. **R**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.
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. **R**

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

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.

Sing to the Lord a new - - song, for he has done - mar-vell-ous things.

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