

COLLECT

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the
peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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 60:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet
Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

PSALM Psalm 72:[1-9] 10-15

R The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.

Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a
king.

Then shall he judge your people
righteously
and your poor with justice. R

May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the
people.

May he defend the poor among the
people,
deliver the children of the needy and
crush the oppressor. R

May he live as long as the sun and moon
endure,
from one generation to another.

May he come down like rain upon the
mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.
In his time shall righteousness flourish,



The Lord is king; let the earth - re-joice.

and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more. R

May his dominion extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the
earth.

May his foes kneel before him
and his enemies lick the dust. R

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall
pay tribute;
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring
gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him;
all nations shall do him service. R

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,
the needy and those who have no helper.
He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the
needy. R

He shall redeem their lives from
oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
Long may he live;
unto him may be given gold from
Sheba;
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day
long. R

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for
the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you
have already heard of the commission of
God's grace that was given me for you,
and how the mystery was made known
to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a
few words, a reading of which will enable
you to perceive my understanding of the
mystery of Christ. In former generations
this mystery was not made known to
humankind, as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the
Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become
fellow-heirs, members of the same body,
and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus
through the gospel. Of this gospel I have
become a servant according to the gift
of God's grace that was given me by the
working of his power. Although I am the
very least of all the saints, this grace was
given to me to bring to the Gentiles the
news of the boundless riches of Christ,
and to make everyone see what is the
plan of the mystery hidden for ages
in God who created all things; so that
through the church the wisdom of God
in its rich variety might now be made

known to the rulers and authorities in the
heavenly places. This was in accordance
with the eternal purpose that he has
carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in
whom we have access to God in boldness
and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus
was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise
men from the East came to Jerusalem,
asking, "Where is the child who has
been born king of the Jews? For we
observed his star at its rising, and have
come to pay him homage." When King
Herod heard this, he was frightened,
and all Jerusalem with him; and calling
together all the chief priests and scribes
of the people, he inquired of them
where the Messiah was to be born. They
told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so
it has been written by the prophet: 'And
you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers
of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
Then Herod secretly called for the wise
men and learned from them the exact
time when the star had appeared. Then
he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go
and search diligently for the child; and
when you have found him, bring me
word so that I may also go and pay him
homage." When they had heard the
king, they set out; and there, ahead of
them, went the star that they had seen
at its rising, until it stopped over the
place where the child was. When they
saw that the star had stopped, they were
overwhelmed with joy. On entering the
house, they saw the child with Mary
his mother; and they knelt down and
paid him homage. Then, opening their
treasure-chests, they offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And
having been warned in a dream not to
return to Herod, they left for their own
country by another road.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations
seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in
your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our
Lord.



COLLECT

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by
water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling
as your adopted children;
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 Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from the book of Genesis.
In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

PSALM Psalm 29

R The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **R**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare;
in his temple all cry, "Glory!" **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

SECOND READING Acts 19:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his

hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

GOSPEL Mark 1:4-11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens
and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our
rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me.

May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him." As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

PSALM Psalm 139:1-5. 12-18

(or 139:1-9)

R Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether. R

You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.
For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb. R

I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth. R

Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,
As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them. R

How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
If I count them, they are more in number
than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence. R

SECOND READING Revelation 5:1-10

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was

found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

GOSPEL John 1:43-51

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

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you come to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

POST COMMUNION

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.
our Lord.



Search me out, O God, and know my heart.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and
miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your
heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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 Genesis 14:17-20

A reading from the book of Genesis.

After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

PSALM Psalm 128

R How abundant is your goodness,
O Lord.

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the toil of
your hands;
it shall go well with you, and
happy shall you be. R

Your wife within your house
shall be like a fruitful vine;

your children round your table,
like fresh olive branches.
Thus shall the one be blest
who fears the Lord. R

The Lord from out of Zion bless you,
that you may see Jerusalem in
prosperity
all the days of your life.
May you see your children's children,
and may there be peace upon
Israel. R

SECOND READING Revelation 19:6-10

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure" – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God." Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

GOSPEL John 2:1-11

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

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

POST COMMUNION

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus
Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and
sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known,
worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and
for ever.



How a - bun-dant is your good-ness, O Lord.

Sunday

31 January 2021 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day
presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

R The Lord of hosts: he is the King of glory.

[The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.]

For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep. R

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place?"
"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,

who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie; R

"They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation."

Such is the company of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. R]

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is the King of glory?"
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle." R

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is this King of glory?"
"The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory." R

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of

the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts
beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he
comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

