

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 72:1-7. 10-14

R *Kings bow down before him;
all the nations do him service.*

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity
to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness. **R**

He shall defend the needy among
the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the
oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon
endure,
from one generation to another. **R**

He shall come down like rain upon the
mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall
pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba
offer gifts.
All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service. **R**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out
in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.
He shall have pity on the lowly
and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
He shall redeem their lives from
oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **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 voice of the Lord is upon the
 waters; [the God of glory thunders].*

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to
 his name;
 worship the Lord in the beauty of
 holiness. **R**

The voice of the Lord is upon the
 waters;
 the God of glory thunders;
 the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
 The voice of the Lord is a powerful
 voice;
 the voice of the Lord is a voice of
 splendour. **R**
 The voice of the Lord breaks the
 cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of
 Lebanon;
 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild
 ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flames
 of fire;
 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.
 And in the temple of the Lord
 all are crying, "Glory!" **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the
 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. 12-17

R I will thank you because I am marvellously made.

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 trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways. **R**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it. **R**

For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I will thank you because I am marvellously made;
your works are wonderful and I know it well. **R**

My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them. **R**

How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
how great is the sum of them!
If I were to count them,
they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 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."

Or (RCL) 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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.

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 *Whoever fears the Lord shall indeed be blessed.*

Happy are they all who fear the Lord,
and who follow in his ways!
You shall eat the fruit of your labour;
happiness and prosperity shall be yours. **R**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house,
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

Whoever fears the Lord shall thus indeed be blessed. **R**

The Lord bless you from Zion,
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of our life.
May you live to see your children's children;
may peace be 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.

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 *Either* Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-10

R *The Lord of hosts,
he is the king of glory.*
or

R *The Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come.*

[The earth is the Lord's and all that
is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.
For it is he who founded it upon the seas
and made it firm upon the rivers of
the deep. **R**

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord?
and who can stand in his holy place?"

"Those who have clean hands and a
pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to
falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud. **R**

They shall receive a blessing from the
Lord
and a just reward from the God of
their salvation."
Such is the generation of those who
seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God
of Jacob. **R]**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
"Who is this King of glory?"
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle." **R**

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

Or **Psalm 84** (RCL only)

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.