

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 *All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly
shown
in the sight of the nations.
He remembers his mercy and
faithfulness
to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God. **R**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you
lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the
horn
shout with joy before the King, the
Lord. **R**

Let the sea make a noise and all that
is in it,
the lands and those who dwell
therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy
before the Lord,
when 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.