

## 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

### Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my  
God; for he has clothed me with  
the garments of salvation, he  
has covered me with the robe of  
righteousness, as a bridegroom  
decks himself with a garland, and  
as a bride adorns herself with her  
jewels. For as the earth brings  
forth its shoots, and as a garden  
causes what is sown in it to spring  
up, so the Lord GOD will cause  
righteousness and praise to  
spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep  
silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I  
will not rest, until her vindication  
shines out like the dawn, and her  
salvation like a burning torch. The  
nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory; and  
you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will  
give. You shall be a crown of  
beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of  
your God.

## 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 angels of his;

praise him, all his host.  
Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars. **R**

Praise him, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the  
heavens.  
Let them praise the name of the  
Lord;  
for he commanded and they  
were created.  
He made them stand 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 fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing his will;  
Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars; **R**

Wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and winged  
birds;  
Kings of the earth and all  
peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the  
world;  
Young men and maidens,  
old and young together. **R**

Let them praise the name of the  
Lord,  
for his name only is exalted,  
his splendour is over earth and  
heaven.

He has raised up strength for his  
people  
and praise for all his loyal  
servants,  
the children of Israel, a people  
who are near him.  
Alleluia! **R**

## SECOND READING

### Galatians 4:4-7

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

When the fullness of time had  
come, God sent his Son, born of  
a woman, born under the law, in  
order to redeem those who were  
under the law, so that we might  
receive adoption as children.  
And because you are children,

God has sent the Spirit of his Son  
into our hearts, crying, "Abba!  
Father!" So you are no longer a  
slave but a child, and if a child  
then also an heir, through God.

## GOSPEL Luke 2:15-21

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

When the angels had left them  
and gone into heaven, the  
shepherds said to one another,  
"Let us go now to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that has taken  
place, which the Lord has made  
known to us." So they went  
with haste and found Mary and  
Joseph, and the child lying in the  
manger. When they saw this, they  
made known what had been told  
them about this child; and all who  
heard it were amazed at what the  
shepherds told them. But Mary  
treasured all these words and  
pondered them in her heart. The  
shepherds returned, glorifying  
and praising God for all they had  
heard and seen, as it had been  
told them. After eight days had  
passed, it was time to circumcise  
the child; and he was called  
Jesus, the name given by the  
angel before he was conceived in  
the womb.

## 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.