

Second Sunday After Christmas

05 January 2025

Sentence

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Isaiah 60.1

Collect

Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour:
may the brightness of your incarnate Word
pierce the night that covers the earth,
signal the dawn of justice and peace,
and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading

Jeremiah 31.7-14

7 For thus says the Lord :

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O Lord , your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn.

- ¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord , O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'
- ¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
- ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord ,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
- ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
- ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

Psalm

Psalm 147.12-20

- ¹² Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem:
sing praises to your God, O Zion.
- ¹³ For he has strengthened the bars of your gates:
and blessed your children within you.
- ¹⁴ He makes peace within your borders:
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- ¹⁵ He sends his command to the earth:
and his word runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁶ He gives snow like wool:
and scatters the hoar-frost like ashes.
- ¹⁷ He sprinkles his ice like morsels of bread:
and the waters harden at his frost.
- ¹⁸ He sends out his word and melts them:
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

- ¹⁹ He made his word known to Jacob:
his statutes and judgements to Israel.
²⁰ He has not dealt so with any other nation:
nor have they knowledge of his laws. Praise the Lord.

2nd Reading

Ephesians 1.3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel

John 1.10-18

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children

of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.