

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS    B**  
**Sunday in the Christmas Octave**  
*The Holy Family*

**The 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. **AMEN**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

[61. 10 – 62.3]

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.

*Reader* / This is the Word of the Lord

*Response* / **Thanks be to God**

## **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, O praise the name of the Lord.***

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.

6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;

he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

***R/ Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.***

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/ Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.***

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/ Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.***

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/ Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.***

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

[4; 4-

7]

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.

*Reader/* This is the Word of the Lord

*Response /* **Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn**

**The Gospel**

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past  
and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days,  
he has spoken to us through his Son.

**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you: **And also with you**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke *Glory to you,  
O Lord.*

**W**hen 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. *[St Luke*  
*2. 15-21]*

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

### **AT THE EUCHARIST TODAY**

**Hymns:** *St Arvans*) 39; 40; 28; 21

#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

The Shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph,  
and the Infant lying in a manger

#### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:**

We offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking  
that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and  
Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace  
and your peace  
through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

*Celebrant* : Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**[Response : Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.]**

**POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE:**

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
grant to your Church grace to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and at the last bring us all to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**