

24 December 2014

Christmas Eve

Collect of the Day

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true
light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that
light on earth,
to see the radiance of 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

Hebrews 1.1-4(5-12)

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many
and various ways by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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,
⁴having become as much superior to angels as the
name he has inherited is more excellent than
theirs.

⁵For 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?'

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the
world, he says,

 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

⁷Of the angels he says,

 'He makes his angels winds,
 and his servants flames of fire.'

⁸But of the Son he says,

 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and

ever,

 and the righteous sceptre is the
sceptre of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated
wickedness;

 therefore God, your God, has anointed
you

with the oil of gladness beyond your
companions.'

¹⁰And,

 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the
earth,

 and the heavens are the work of your
hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
 they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like 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.'

(NRSV)

Gospel

John 1.1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was
in the beginning with God. ³All things came into
being through him, and without him not one thing
came into being. ⁴What has come into being in
him was life, and the life was the light of all
people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name
was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the
light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He
himself was not the light, but he came to testify
to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens
everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into
being through him; yet the world did not know
him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own
people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who
received him, who believed in his name, he gave
power to become children of God, ¹³who were
born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of
the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. (NRSV)

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.