

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)*

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

<sup>5</sup>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?'

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the  
world, he says,

    'Let all God's angels worship him.'

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

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

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated  
wickedness;

    therefore God, your God, has anointed  
you

with the oil of gladness beyond your  
companions.'

<sup>10</sup>And,

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

    and the heavens are the work of your  
hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
    they will all wear out like clothing;

<sup>12</sup>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.'

(NRSV)

### Gospel

*John 1.1-14*

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>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. (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.