

**28 December 2014**

## **First Sunday of Christmas**

### **Collect of the Day**

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*

<sup>10</sup>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.  
<sup>11</sup>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.  
<sup>1</sup>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.  
<sup>2</sup>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.  
<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the  
hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of  
your God. (NRSV)

## **Second Reading**

*Galatians 4.4-7*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent  
his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in  
order to redeem those who were under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as children.  
<sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the  
Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba!  
Father!' <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child,  
and if a child then also an heir, through God.  
(NRSV)

## **Gospel**

*Luke 2.15-21*

<sup>15</sup>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.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary  
and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.  
<sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had  
been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who  
heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told  
them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and  
pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds  
returned, glorifying and praising God for all they  
had heard and seen, as it had been told them.  
<sup>21</sup>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 Prayer**

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.