

**08 February 2015**

**Second Sunday before Lent**

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth and  
made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme  
over all things,  
now and for ever.

### **First Reading**

*Proverbs 8.1,22-31*

<sup>1</sup>Does not wisdom call, and does not  
understanding raise her voice?  
<sup>22</sup>The LORD created me at the beginning of his  
work, the first of his acts of long ago.  
<sup>23</sup>Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the  
beginning of the earth.  
<sup>24</sup>When there were no depths I was brought  
forth, when there were no springs abounding  
with water.  
<sup>25</sup>Before the mountains had been shaped, before  
the hills, I was brought forth –  
<sup>26</sup>when he had not yet made earth and fields, or  
the world's first bits of soil.  
<sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
<sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above, when he  
established the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup>when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the  
waters might not transgress his command, when  
he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
<sup>30</sup>then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him  
always,  
<sup>31</sup>rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in  
the human race. (NRSV)

### **Second Reading**

*Colossians 1.15-20*

<sup>15</sup>Christ is the image of the invisible God, the  
firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in  
heaven and on earth were created, things visible  
and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or

rulers or powers – all things have been created  
through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all  
things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is  
the head of the body, the church; he is the  
beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he  
might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For  
in him all the fullness of God was pleased to  
dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to  
reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth  
or in heaven, by making peace through the blood  
of his cross. (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 creator,  
by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of  
the earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:  
may we who have been nourished at your table  
on earth be transformed by the glory of the  
Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.