

## Readings – First Sunday after Christmas 31-12-2023

### Sentence

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.30-32

### Collect

Saving God,  
whose Son Jesus was presented in the temple  
and was acclaimed the glory of Israel  
and the light of the nations:  
grant that in him we may be presented to you  
and in the world may reflect his glory;  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3**

Our first reading is taken from Isaiah, Chapter 61 beginning at verse 10

<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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148

Our Psalm today comes from Psalm 148. I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse,

1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:  
O praise him in the heights.

**2 Praise him, all his angels: O praise him, all his host.**

3 Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all you stars of light.

**4 Praise him, you highest heaven:  
and you waters that are above the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
for he commanded and they were made.

**6 He established them for ever and ever:  
he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.**

7 O praise the Lord from the earth:  
praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**8 Fire and hail, mist and snow:  
and storm-wind fulfilling his command;**

9 Mountains and all hills: fruit trees and all cedars;

**10 Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:  
creeping things and winged birds;**

11 Kings of the earth, and all peoples:  
princes, and all rulers of the world;

**12 Young men and maidens: old folk and children together.**

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord:  
for his name alone is exalted.

**14 His glory is above earth and heaven:  
and he has lifted high the horn of his people.**

15 Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:  
of the children of Israel, a people that is near him.  
Praise the Lord.

### **Galatians 4: 4-7**

Our second reading is taken from the letter of Paul to the Galatians, chapter 4, beginning at verse 4

<sup>4</sup> But 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Luke 2: 22-40**

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,  
chapter 2, beginning at verse 22,

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**