

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

¹⁰I 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.
¹¹For 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.
¹For 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.
²The 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.
³You 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

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent
his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in
order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
⁶And because you are children, God has sent the
Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba!
Father!' ⁷So 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

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