

# First Sunday after Christmas

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Year A

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## A Reading from the Book of Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul 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 forth before all the nations.

**62:1** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as 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 which 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.

## Psalm 147:13-21 *Laudate Dominum*

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; \*

- he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

### **A Reading from Galatians 3:23-4:7**

Now before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

**4:1** I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; <sup>2</sup> but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup> So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. <sup>4</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John 1:1-18**

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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. <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 nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. <sup>15</sup> (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.