



Revised Common Lectionary

First Sunday after Christmas

The Collect:

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 for ever. Amen.

Old Testament: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰ 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. 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.

¹ 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. 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.

Psalms: Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

[¹ Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

² The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³ He heals the brokenhearted *

and binds up their wounds.

- ⁴ He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
- ⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- ⁶ The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- ⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- ⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- ⁹ He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- ¹⁰ He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- ¹¹ He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- ¹² But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.]
- 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!

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ⁴But when 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.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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.

¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

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