

Psalms, readings and collect

Date: 25th December – Christmas Day

Obviously on Sundays, people will use the Act of Spiritual Communion; but for those who wish to say an evening office, provision is included here.

Office (25th December)

Psalm:

(110) THE Lord said unto my Lord : Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

2 The Lord shall send the rod of thy power out of Sion : be thou ruler, even in the midst among thine enemies.

3 In the day of thy power shall the people offer thee free-will offerings with an holy worship : the dew of thy birth is of the womb of the morning.

4 The Lord swears, and will not repent : Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech.

5 The Lord upon thy right hand : shall wound even kings in the day of his wrath.

6 He shall judge among the heathen; he shall fill the places with the dead bodies : and smite in sunder the heads over divers countries.

7 He shall drink of the brook in the way : therefore shall he lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Reading:

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Hark, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Collect of the day:

Almighty God, Who hast given us Thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made Thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Thy Holy Spirit, through the same Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord; Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion

In the evening of 24th December:

Collect:

Good and gracious God, on this holy night You gave us Your Son, the Lord of the Universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger. In this holy night, draw us into the Mystery of Your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing Your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for Whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, Your Word made flesh, Who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the Splendour of eternal light, God, throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

First Reading:

A Reading from the Letter to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Psalm:

Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦ sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦ tell out his salvation from day to day.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦ let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦ let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.

For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦ with righteousness he will judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

Gospel:

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will

be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

Postcommunion prayer:

God our Father, in this night You have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on Him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To Whom be glory both now and for ever and ever.

In the morning of 25th December

Collect:

We praise You, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, the Good News of salvation: Your Word became flesh and we have seen His Glory. Let the radiance of that Glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate His Birth. Reveal to all the world the Light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the Splendour of eternal light, God, throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

First Reading:

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to what angel did God ever say, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Psalm:

Sing to the Lord a new song, ♦ for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm ♦ have won for him the victory.
The Lord has made known his salvation; ♦ his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, ♦ and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦ break into singing and make music.
Make music to the Lord with the lyre, ♦ with the lyre and the voice of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn ♦ sound praises before the Lord, the King.

Gospel:

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 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. (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.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

Postcommunion prayer:

God our Father, Whose Word has come among us in the holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Him Who is Christ the Lord.