

*Collect: 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.*

#### **Galatians 4.4–7**

<sup>4</sup> 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.

#### **Luke 2.15–21**

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

#### **Psalm 148**

**R Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Alleluia! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. **R**

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; **R**

<sup>10</sup> Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup> Young men and maidens, old and young together. **R**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

Alleluia! **R**

*Post Communion: 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.*

#### **Canticle: The song of the Messiah**

<sup>1</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; ♦

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, upon them the light has dawned.

<sup>2</sup> You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; ♦ they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.

<sup>3</sup> For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them; ♦ the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.

<sup>4</sup> For to us a child is born and to us a son is given, ♦ and the government will be upon his shoulder.

<sup>5</sup> And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor; the Mighty God; ♦ the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.

<sup>6</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace ♦ there will be no end,

<sup>7</sup> Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, ♦ to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> From this time forth and for evermore; ♦ the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9.2,3b,4a,6,7

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Happy New Year!**