



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Year B

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation
and 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.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until its vindication shines out like the dawn
and its salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication
and all the rulers your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 148

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from Galatians.

⁴When the fullness of time had come,
God sent the 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 the 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.

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses,
[Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord,
“Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”),
²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
“a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.
²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple,
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus
to do for him what was customary under the law,
²⁸Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,
²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.” ►

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed
at what was being said about him.

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel
and to be a sign that will be opposed

³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—
and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

³⁶There was also a prophet,
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was of a great age,
having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.

She never left the temple
but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸At that moment she came and began to praise God
and to speak about the child
to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When Mary and Joseph had finished everything
required by the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom,
and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.