

Readings and Gospel Reading for Sunday 29th December 2024

First Reading

Psalm 148

1 Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; •
praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you his angels; •
praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon; •
praise him, all you stars of light.

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, •
and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, •
for he commanded and they were created.

6 He made them fast for ever and ever; •
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, •
you sea monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, •
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;

9 Mountains and all hills, •
fruit trees and all cedars;

10 Wild beasts and all cattle, •
creeping things and birds on the wing;

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, •
princes and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and women,
old and young together; •
let them praise the name of the Lord.

13 For his name only is exalted, •
his splendour above earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up the horn of his people
and praise for all his faithful servants, •
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Alleluia.

Second Reading

Colossians 3.12-14

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 21-40

²¹ 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.

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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’), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;^[a] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.^[b] ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon^[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon^[d] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant^[e] in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.’

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon^[f] 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

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

eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child^[h] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.