

Readings + Second Sunday of Christmas ABC + 5 January 2025

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Sirach 24:1-12 (alt. first reading)

- ¹ Wisdom praises herself
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
- ² In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,
and in the presence of God's hosts she tells of her glory:
- ³ "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High
and covered the earth like a mist.
- ⁴ I encamped in the heights,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
- ⁵ Alone I compassed the vault of heaven
and traversed the depths of the abyss.
- ⁶ Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,
and over every people and nation I have held sway.
- ⁷ Among all these I sought a resting place;
in whose inheritance should I abide?
- ⁸ "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,
and my Creator pitched my tent,
saying, 'Encamp in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'
- ⁹ Before the ages, in the beginning, the Most High created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
- ¹⁰ In the holy tent I ministered before God,
and so I was established in Zion.
- ¹¹ "Thus in the beloved city the Most High gave me a resting place,
and in Jerusalem was my domain.
- ¹² I took root in an honored people;
in the portion of the Lord is my inheritance."

Psalmody Wisdom of Solomon 15-21 (alt. psalm)

Holy people and blameless offspring Wisdom delivered from a nation of oppressors.

She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord and withstood dread kings with wonders and signs.

She gave to holy people the reward of their labors; she guided them along a marvelous way and became a shelter to them by day and a starry flame through the night.

She brought them over the Red Sea and led them through deep waters,

but she drowned their enemies and cast them up from the depth of the sea.

Therefore the righteous plundered the ungodly; they sang hymns, O Lord, to your holy name and praised with one accord your defending hand,

for wisdom opened the mouths of those who were mute and made the tongues of infants speak clearly.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

Paul writes: ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that before God we should be holy and blameless in love. ⁵ God destined us for adoption as children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will, ⁶ to the praise of God's glorious grace, freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

⁷ In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God's grace ⁸ lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight ⁹ God has made known to us the mystery of the divine will, according to God's good pleasure set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to divine counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of God's glory. ¹³ In Christ you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of God's glory.

Holy Gospel John 1:[1-9] 10-18

[¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The Word was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through the Word, without whom not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in the Word was life, and the life was the Light of all people. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ John himself was not the Light, but he

came to testify to the Light. ⁹ The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰ The Light was in the world, and the world came into being through the Light; yet the world did not know the Light. ¹¹ The Light came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received the Light, who trusted in his name, the Light gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of human will, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was the one of whom I said, 'The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, truly God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made God known.