

# Readings + First Sunday of Christmas, year A + December 28, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, 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 Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,  
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that the LORD has shown them out of mercy,  
out of the abundance of steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For the LORD said,  
“Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,”  
and the LORD became their savior  
<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
but the presence of the LORD that saved them;  
it was the LORD who out of love and pity  
redeemed them;  
lifting them up and carrying them all the days  
of old.

## Psalmody Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise,  
all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all  
you shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heav- en of heavens, and  
you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, who  
commanded, and they were created,  
**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law which shall not pass  
away.**

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters  
and all deeps;  
**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous  
wind, doing God’s will;**  
mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and  
flying birds;**  
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes  
and all rulers of the world;  
**young men and maidens, old and young  
together.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose  
name only is exalted, whose splendor is over  
earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the  
people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near  
the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading Hebrews 2:10-18

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and  
through whom all things exist, in bringing many  
children to glory, should make the pioneer of  
their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For  
the one who sanctifies and those who are  
sanctified all have one source. For this reason  
Jesus is not ashamed to call them members of his  
family, <sup>12</sup> saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my family;  
in the midst of the congregation  
I will praise you.”

<sup>13</sup> And again,

“I will put my trust in God.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has  
given me.”

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and  
blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same  
things, so that through death he might destroy  
the one who has the power of death, that is, the  
devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were  
held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is  
clear that Jesus did not come to help angels but  
the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore Jesus  
had to become like those of his family in every

respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## **Holy Gospel**    Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup> Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem

who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

<sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled,  
because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”