

Readings + Second Sunday of Christmas ABC + 4 January 2026

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 Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land
of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the
earth,

among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become as a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “The one who scattered Israel will gather them
and will keep them as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed Jacob’s people from hands
too strong for them.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height
of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of
the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;

I will comfort them and give them gladness
for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my
bounty, says the LORD.

Psalmody Psalm 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your
God, O Zion,

**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

God has established peace on your borders and
satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**God sends out a command to the earth, a
word that runs very swiftly.**

God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like
ashes.

**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can
stand against God’s cold?**

The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and
judgments to Israel.**

The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God’s judgments.
Hallelujah!

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

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

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

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and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

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