

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

December 31, 2023

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

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Freedom Sign.

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he 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. For 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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 148

- ✠ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
- ✠ Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
- ✠ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
- ✠ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!
- ✠ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
- ✠ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
- ✠ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- ✠ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- ✠ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
- ✠ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- ✠ Young men and women alike, old and young together!
- ✠ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
- ✠ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir through God.

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