

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

January 1, 2017

Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

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The Flight into Egypt, Rembrandt, St. Louis Art Museum, 1633.

Isaiah 63:7-9 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 he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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!

Hebrews 2:10-18 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. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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