

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Solemn Eucharist at Eleven o'clock

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

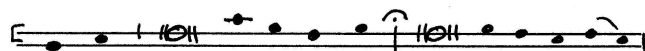
The Gospel for this Sunday narrates the story of the holy family's flight to Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod, and then their settlement in Nazareth. The Old Testament lesson, although addressing an earlier situation, speaks of a saviour as well as a protecting angel and thus shows analogies to the Gospel reading. The psalm is a powerful song that has all the cosmos as well as the heavenly hosts praising God, whereas the Epistle focusses on the descendants of Abraham who, like the patriarch himself, went down to and came out of Egypt.

FIRST READING: 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 favour 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 Saviour 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.

The word of the Lord R/. *Thanks be to God*

PSALM 148—*Laudate Dominum; Tone VII,6*



- 1 O PRAISE the Lord from the hea-vens : praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all ye an-gels of his : praise him, all his höst.
- 3 Praise him sun and moon : praise him, all ye stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, all ye hea-vens : and ye waters that are a-bove the hea-vëns.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord : for he commanded and they were cre-a-tëd.
- 6 He hath made them fast for ev-er and ev-er : he hath given them a law which shall not be bro-kën.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth : ye dra-gons and all deëps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and va-pour : wind and storm, ful-fill-ing his wörd;
- 9 Moun-tains and all hills : fruitful trees and äll ce-därs;
- 10 Beasts and all cat-tle : creeping things and fea-ther-ed föwls;
- 11 Kings of the earth, and all peo-ples : princes and all judg-es of the wörlð;
- 12 Young men and maid-ens to-ge-ther : old men and chil-drën;
- 13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord :
for his Name only is excellent, and his glory above hea-ven and eärth.
- 14 He shall exalt the horn of his peo-plë; all his saints shall praise him :
even the children of Israel, even the peo-ple that serv-eth him.

SECOND READING: 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 thy name unto my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God hath 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 the 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.

The word of the Lord R/. *Thanks be to God*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Colossians 3.15,16

Alleluia. Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2.13-23

R/. *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

And when the wise men were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying: In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judæa in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of Christ R/. *Praise be to thee, O Christ*