

**Readings, Collect and Year's Mind
for Thursday 24th & Friday 25th December 2020
Christmas**

In our Year's Mind this week, we pray for: David Keir, Richard Henderson, Betsy Black

The Collect for Christmas is:

O God our Father,
the light of whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
grant that the radiance of that true light,
which enlightens our minds by faith,
may shine brightly through our words and deeds;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen**

The First Reading is from Isaiah 52: 7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

1. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.
2. With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.
3. The Lord has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
5. Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
6. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
7. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
8. Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.
9. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
10. In righteousness shall he judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 1: 1-4 (Read by Duncan McKinnell / Rupert Forbes)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading is from John 1: 1-14

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Post Communion Prayers:

Christmas Night

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.

Amen.

Christmas Day

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen