

2nd SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (C)

1st. READING (Sir 24,1-2. 8-12)

Listen to wisdom singing her own praises and extolling herself in the midst of her people. See, she opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself before the Almighty. Then the creator of the universe commanded me, he who created me assigned the place of my rest, "Pitch your tent in Jacob; Israel will be your homeland." He created me from the beginning, before time began, and I will never cease to be, I celebrate in his presence the liturgy of his Holy Dwelling and this is why I settled in Zion. The Lord let me rest in his beloved city and Jerusalem is the heart of my kingdom. I took root in the people God has favoured, in the land of the Lord, in their inheritance.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 147)

Exalt the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion!
For he strengthens the bars of your gates
and blesses your children within you.

He grants peace on your borders
and feeds you with the finest grain.
He sends his command to the earth
and swiftly runs his word.

It is he who tells Jacob his words,
his laws and decrees to Israel.
This he has not done for other nations,
so his laws remain unknown to them.
Alleluia!

2nd. READING (Eph 1, 3-6.15-18)

Blessed be God, the Father of Christ Jesus our Lord, who in Christ has blessed us from heaven with every spiritual blessing. God chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and without sin in his presence. From eternity he destined us in love to be his sons and daughters through Christ Jesus, thus fulfilling his free and generous will. This goal suited him: that his loving-kindness which he granted us in his Beloved might finally receive all glory and praise. I have been told of your faith and your affection towards all the believers, so I always give thanks to God, remembering you in my prayers. May the God of Christ Jesus our Lord, the Father of Glory, reveal himself to you and give you a spirit of wisdom, that you may know him. May he enlighten your inner vision, that you may appreciate the things we hope for, since we were called by God. May you know how great is the inheritance, the glory, God sets apart for his saints;

GOSPEL (Jn 1-1-18)

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 were made through him and without him nothing came to be. Whatever has come to be, found life in him, life which for humans was also light. Light that shines in the dark: light that darkness could not overcome. A man came, sent by God; his name was John. He came to bear witness, as a witness to introduce the Light so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light but a witness to introduce the Light. For the Light was coming into the world, the true Light that enlightens everyone. He was already in the world and through him the world was made, the very world that did not know him. He came to his own, yet his own people did not receive him; but all who have received him he empowers to become children of God for they believe in his Name. These are born, but without seed or carnal desire or will of man: they are born of God.

And the Word was made flesh; he had his tent pitched among us, and we have seen his Glory, the Glory of the only Son coming from the Father: fullness of truth and loving-kindness. John bore witness to him openly, saying: This is the one who comes after me, but he is already ahead of me for he was before me. From his fullness we have all received, favor upon favor. For God had given us the Law through Moses, but Truth and Loving-kindness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God-the-Only-Son made him known: the one who is in and with the Father.