



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Year A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

A reading from Isaiah.

⁷I 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 the LORD has shown them out of mercy,
out of the abundance of steadfast love.

⁸For the LORD said,
“Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,”
and the LORD became their savior
⁹in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but the presence of the LORD that saved them;
it was the LORD who out of love and pity redeemed them;
lifting them up and carrying them all the days of old.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 148

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

A reading from Hebrews.

¹⁰It 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. ▶

¹¹For the one who sanctifies
and those who are sanctified
all have one source.
For this reason
Jesus is not ashamed to call them members of his family, ¹²saying,
“I will proclaim your name to my family;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”
¹³And again,
“I will put my trust in God.”
And again,
“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus 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,
¹⁵and free those who all their lives
were held in slavery by the fear of death.
¹⁶For it is clear that Jesus did not come to help angels
but the descendants of Abraham.
¹⁷Therefore Jesus had to become like those of his family
in every respect,
so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God,
to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
¹⁸Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

¹³Now after “the magi” had left,
an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
“Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt,
and remain there until I tell you,
for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ▶

¹⁴Then Joseph got up,
took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt
¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfill
what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet,
“Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi,
he was infuriated,
and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem
who were two years old or under,
according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

¹⁷Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died,
an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
and said,

²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother,
and go to the land of Israel,
for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother,
and went to the land of Israel.

²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea
in place of his father Herod,
he was afraid to go there.
And after being warned in a dream,
he went away to the district of Galilee.

²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth,
so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled,
“He will be called a Nazarene.”

The gospel of the Lord.