

COLLECT

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives’ end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(or)

O Lord,
we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace
and power faithfully to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-15a

A reading from the First Book of the Kings

One night while Solomon was in Gibeon, the Lord God appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Solomon, ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you.’

Solomon answered: ‘My father David, your servant, was honest and did what you commanded. You were always loyal to him, and you gave him a son who is now king. Lord God, I’m your servant, and you’ve made me king in my father’s place. But I’m very young and know so little about being a leader. And now I must rule your chosen people, even though there are too many of them to count.

‘Please make me wise and teach me the difference between right and wrong. Then I will know how to rule your people. If you don’t, there is no way I could rule this great nation of yours.’

God said: Solomon, ‘I’m pleased that you asked for this. You could have asked to live a long time or to be rich. Or you could have asked for your enemies to be destroyed. Instead, you asked for wisdom to make right decisions. So I’ll make you wiser than anyone who has ever lived or ever will live.

‘I’ll also give you what you didn’t ask for. You’ll be rich and respected as long as you live, and you’ll be greater than any other king. If you obey me and follow my commands, as your father David did, I’ll let you live a long time.’

Solomon woke up and realized that God had spoken to him in the dream.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 41-52

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover. And when Jesus was twelve years old, they all went there as usual for the celebration. After Passover his parents left, but they did not know that Jesus had stayed on in the city. They thought he was travelling with some other people, and they went a whole day before they started looking for him. When they could not find him with their relatives and friends, they went back to Jerusalem and started looking for him there.

Three days later they found Jesus sitting in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was surprised at how much he knew and at the answers he gave.

When his parents found him, they were amazed. His mother said, ‘Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried, and we have been searching for you!’

Jesus answered, ‘Why did you have to look for me? Didn’t you know that I would be in my Father’s house?’ But they did not understand what he meant.

Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and obeyed them. His mother kept on thinking about all that had happened.

Jesus became wise, and he grew strong. God was pleased with him and so were the people.

At the end we say: Praise be to you O Christ

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we
may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* Indicates that these appointed readings have been shortened today.

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