Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king,
behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, [2] saying, "Where is he who
has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to
worship him." [3] When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jeru-
salem with him; [4] and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he
inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. [5] They told him, "In Bethlehem
of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: [6] "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land
of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come
a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

[7] Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what
time the star had appeared. [8] And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and
search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that
I too may come and worship him." [9] After listening to the king, they went on their
way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until
it came to rest over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, they
rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. [11] And going into the house, they saw the child
with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their
treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. [12] And being
warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by
another way.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Offertory and Post-Communion Sentences

(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)

Proper Preface

Christmas

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

Sources: The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Anglican Church in North America

Year A

Seasonal Greeting

Celebrant For unto us a child is born.
People **Unto us a son is given.**
Isaiah 9:6

Collect of the Day

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts
for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your
people, the remnant of Israel.' [8] Behold, I will bring them from the north country
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and
the lame, the pregnant woman and she who is in labor, together; a great company,
they shall return here. [9] With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I
will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path
in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my
firstborn.

[10] "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far
away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd
keeps his flock.' [11] For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from
hands too strong for him. [12] They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine,
and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a
watered garden, and they shall languish no more. [13] Then shall the young women
rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn
their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
[14] I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satis-
fied with my goodness, declares the LORD."

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter Verses

(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)

Psalm 84

1 How lovely are your dwellings, *
O LORD God of hosts!

2 My soul has a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the LORD; *
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

3 Indeed, the sparrow has found her a house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, *
even your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

4 Blessed are they who dwell in your house; *
they will be always praising you.

5 Blessed is the one whose strength is in you, *
in whose heart are your ways,

6 Who going through the valley of misery uses it for a well; *
indeed, the early rains fill the pools with water.

7 They will go from strength to strength, *
and the God of gods shall be seen by them in Zion.

8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

9 Behold, O God, our defender, *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

10 For one day in your courts *
is better than a thousand;

11 I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God *
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

12 For the LORD God is a light and defense; *
the LORD will give grace and honor, and no good thing shall he withhold from those who live a godly life.

13 O LORD God of hosts, *
blessed is the one who puts his trust in you.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in

Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke.
(St. Matthew if using the second Gospel reading.)
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Luke 2:41-52

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature[c] and in favor with God and man.

OR