

Psalm

Psalm 89:1–8; antiphon: v. 8

I Will Sing of the Steadfast Love of the LORD

- ¹I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever; *
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.
- ²For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up for- | ever; *
in the heavens you will establish your | faithfulness.”
- ³You have said, “I have made a covenant with my | chosen one; *
I have sworn to David my | servant:
- ⁴“I will establish your offspring for- | ever, *
and build your throne for all gener- | ations.””
- ⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O LORD, *
your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!
- ⁶For who in the skies can be compared | to the LORD? *
Who among the heavenly beings is | like the LORD,
- ⁷a God greatly to be feared in the council of the | holy ones, *
and awesome above all who are a- | round him?
- ⁸O LORD God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, | O LORD, *
with your faithfulness all a- | round you?

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1–5

The Righteous Reign of the Branch

- ¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

Readings for the First Sunday after Christmas
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Gradual

Psalm 45:2a, 1b

You are the most handsome of the | sons of men; *
grace is poured up- | on your lips.
I address my verses | to the king; *
my tongue is like the pen of a | ready scribe.

Epistle

Galatians 4:1–7

Sons and Heirs

¹I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:33–40

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Readings for the First Sunday after Christmas

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Acknowledgments

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