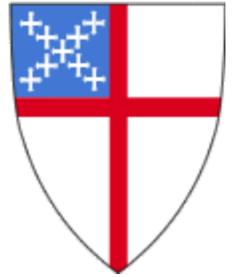


The Lessons Appointed for Use on the

Second Sunday after Christmas



All Years

- [Jeremiah 31:7-14](#)
- [Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a](#)
- [Matthew 2:13-15,19-23](#)
- or [Luke 2:41-52](#)
- or [Matthew 2:1-12](#)
- [Psalm 84 or 84:1-8](#)

The Collect

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; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;

a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
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 a flock."
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
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 become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
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.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The Psalm

Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

[9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God

than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *

he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold *

from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord of hosts, *

happy are they who put their trust in you!]

The New Testament

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and

revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Optional parts of the readings are set off in square brackets.

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2 Christmas
Episcopal Revised Common Lectionary
using as Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Prayers of the People

Presider: Gather your people from the farthest parts of the earth, O Holy One, and let your consolation pour forth, as we sing aloud with radiance over your goodness, saying: Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Litanist: Gracious One, you have blessed the Church with every spiritual blessing from the heavenly places and chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world: Lead us, your children, into holiness, according to the good pleasure of your will, and to the praise of your glorious grace freely bestowed upon us in the Beloved.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Redeem all people from the hands that are too strong for them and guide our earthly rulers to lead as benevolent shepherds, that we may be saved from the road of betrayal and violence, so that all life may be like a watered garden and none may ever languish again.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Guide those who observe the stars and the mysteries of the natural world and lead all who search for truth and insight, that they may labor to bring forth new hope through a constant rebirth of wisdom and knowledge.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Protect all children and families and rescue them from violence, poverty, illness, famine and oppression. Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Inspire our community to welcome strangers from foreign lands and exotic visitors of many faiths, that we may accept their gifts and honor the truth and goodness in all people and in every culture.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Save your people and give ear to our prayer as we remember before you those for whom we are called to pray, especially Mark, Beth, Barbara, Bob, Jerry, Bob, Pat, and Stephen. Hear our gratitude as we sing aloud with radiance over the grain, the wine, and the oil; over the young of the flock and the herd; over the goodness of God, as we pray our

thanksgivings, especially for our Vestry. Turn our mourning into joy, comfort us and give us gladness for sorrow. We remember those who have died.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Presider: Our Gracious God, as you guided the wise men by the leading of a star, so may you give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know Christ, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which you have called us, what are the riches of your glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of your power for us who believe, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.