

## **✠ ORDER OF SERVICE ✠**

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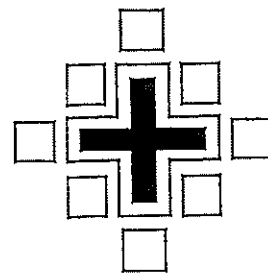
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# First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025



**INTROIT**      *Jer. 31:15–17; antiphon: Hos. 11:1*

When Israel was a child, I | loved him,\*  
and out of Egypt I | called my son.  
Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in | Ramah,\*  
lamentation and bitter | weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her | children;\*  
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they | are no more.”  
Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from | weeping,\*  
and your | eyes from tears,  
for there is a reward for your work, de- | clares the LORD,\*  
and they shall come back from the land of the | enemy.  
There is hope for your future, de- | clares the LORD,\*  
and your children shall come back to their own | country.”  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
When Israel was a child, I | loved him,\*  
and out of Egypt I | called my son.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**GRADUAL**      *Is. 9:6; Ps. 98:1a*

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;\*  
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.  
And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,\*  
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.  
Sing to the Lord a | new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things!

## DAILY READINGS

December 28: Is. 52:13–54:10; Matt. 2:13–23; 29: Is. 55:1–13; Luke 1:1–25; 30: Is. 58:1–59:3, 14–21; Luke 1:26–38; 31: Is. 60:1–22; Luke 1:39–56; January 1: Is. 61:1–11; Luke 1:57–80; 2: Is. 62:1–12; Luke 2:1–20; 3: Is. 63:1–14; Luke 2:21–40.

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**Old Testament Reading:**

**Isaiah 63:7-14**

- 7 I will recount the steadfast love of the  
LORD,  
the praises of the LORD,  
according to all that the LORD has  
granted us,  
and the great goodness to the house  
of Israel  
that he has granted them according to his  
compassion,  
according to the abundance of his  
steadfast love.
- 8 For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely."  
And he became their Savior.
- 9 In all their affliction he was afflicted,  
and the angel of his presence saved  
them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed  
them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all  
the days of old.
- 10 But they rebelled  
and grieved his Holy Spirit;  
therefore he turned to be their enemy,  
and himself fought against them.
- 11 Then he remembered the days of old,  
of Moses and his people.  
Where is he who brought them up out of  
the sea  
with the shepherds of his flock?  
Where is he who put in the midst of  
them  
his Holy Spirit,  
12 who caused his glorious arm  
to go at the right hand of Moses,  
who divided the waters before them  
to make for himself an everlasting  
name,  
13 who led them through the depths?  
Like a horse in the desert,  
they did not stumble.
- 14 Like livestock that go down into the  
valley,  
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.  
So you led your people,  
to make for yourself a glorious name.

**Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth his Son, born of woman,  
born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who  
were under the law, so that we might  
receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you  
are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son  
into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So  
you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if  
a son, then an heir through God.

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23**

<sup>13</sup>Now when [the wise men] had departed,  
behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to  
Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, 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." <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child  
and his mother by night and departed to  
Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death  
of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord  
had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I  
called my son."

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had  
been tricked by the wise men, became  
furious, and he sent and killed all the male  
children in Bethlehem and in all that region  
who were two years old or under, according  
to the time that he had ascertained from the  
wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was  
spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted, because  
they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel  
of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph  
in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, "Rise, take the child and  
his mother and go to the land of Israel, for  
those who sought the child's life are dead."  
<sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his  
mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But  
when he heard that Archelaus was reigning  
over Judea in place of his father Herod, he  
was afraid to go there, and being warned  
in a dream he withdrew to the district of  
Galilee. <sup>23</sup>And he went and lived in a city  
called Nazareth, that what was spoken by  
the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be  
called a Nazarene."