



Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Lessons for Next Week: 1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104;
Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD
with | my whole heart,*
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
²**Great are the deeds | of the LORD!***
they are studied by all who de- | light in them.
³His work is full of majes- | ty and splendor,*
and his righteousness en- | dures forever.
⁴**He makes his marvelous works to | be remembered;***
the LORD is gracious and full | of compassion.
⁵He gives food to | those who fear him;*
he is ever mindful | of his covenant.
⁶**He has shown his people the power | of his works***
in giving them the lands | of the nations.
⁷The works of his hands are faithful- | ness and justice;*
all his command- | ments are sure.
⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,***
because they are done in | truth and equity.
⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his cove- | nant forever;*
holy and awesome | is his Name.
¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;***
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise en- | dures forever.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When 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.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law
of Moses, {Joseph and Mary} brought {Jesus} up to Jerusalem to
present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord,
"Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to
the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said
in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young
pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name
was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting
for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.
²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he
would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And
he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents
brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom
of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and
said, ²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light
for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people
Israel." 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. 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.