



First Sunday of Christmas

First Reading

Isaiah 63.7–9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favour to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast
love.

⁸For he said, 'Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely';

and he became their saviour

⁹in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days
of old.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.10–end

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through
whom all things exist, in bringing many children
to glory, should make the pioneer of their
salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one
who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all
have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not
ashamed to call them brothers and
sisters, ¹²saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and
sisters,

in the midst of the congregation I will praise
you.'

¹³And again,

'I will put my trust in him.'

And again,

'Here am I and the children whom God has given
me.'

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and
blood, he himself likewise shared the same things,
so that through death he might destroy the one
who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in
slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that

he did not come to help angels, but the
descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to
become like his brothers and sisters in every
respect, so that he might be a merciful and
faithful high priest in the service of God, to make
a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the
people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what
he suffered, he is able to help those who are
being tested.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2.13–end

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up,
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.'

¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his
mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and
remained there until the death of Herod. This
was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord
through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called
my son.'

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by
the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and
killed all the children in and around Bethlehem
who were two years old or under, according to
the time that he had learned from the wise
men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken
through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸'A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are
no more.'

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord
suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
and said, ²⁰'Get up, take the child and his mother,
and go to the land of Israel, for those who were
seeking the child's life are dead.' ²¹Then Joseph
got up, took the child and his mother, and went
to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that
Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his
father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after
being warned in a dream, he went away to the
district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a
town called Nazareth, so that what had been
spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled,
'He will be called a Nazorean.'