

LECTIONARY TEXTS

RCL (Revised Common Lectionary)

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 2:15-21

Suggested ReClaim texts

(same)



COLLECT / PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, for all your benefits, temporal and eternal, graciously given in the year past, we give you thanks; and we ask that by your goodness, you grant us a favorable and joyful new year. Defend us from all dangers and adversities, and grant us the fullness of your blessings; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

ON THE GOSPEL READING • Luke 2:15-21

Gracious Father, for our sakes your beloved Son was named Jesus and was made subject to the law of circumcision. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit, not made with hands, that through holy baptism we may daily put off the desires of the flesh. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THOSE IN AFFLICTION

Gracious God and Father, comfort all who are brought low by sickness or sorrow. Show your presence to all who are burdened beyond their own strength. Lift up all who are bowed by circumstances not of their making. And sustain all who walk through the valley of the shadow. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR GRACE TO DO GOD’S WILL

Almighty God, enable us to put off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light now in this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that on the last day when he comes again in glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may be raised to life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR MISSIONS

O God, you gave your only Son for the redemption of all people. We pray that from the rising to the setting of the sun, your name may be made known among the nations, and that in every place holy hands may be lifted up to you in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

FOR THE BLESSINGS OF REDEMPTION

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give you thanks that in your great mercy you sent your only Son to become incarnate, and to redeem us from sin and everlasting death. We pray that you would enlighten our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that we may give thanks always for your grace, and may comfort ourselves with the same in every time of trial and temptation. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, we thank you that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us to keep your Word in pure hearts, so we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and in death. **Amen.**
