SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
COLLECT
Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

FIRST READING   **Proverbs 8.1, 22–31**
A reading from the book of Proverbs
With great understanding,   Wisdom is calling out. From the beginning, I was with the LORD. I was there before he began to create the earth.   At the very first, the LORD gave life to me. When I was born, there were no oceans   or springs of water.   My birth was before mountains were formed or hills were put in place. It happened long before God had made the earth or any of its fields or even the dust. I was there when the LORD put the heavens in place and stretched the sky over the surface of the sea. I was with him when he placed the clouds in the sky and created the springs that fill the ocean. I was there when he set boundaries for the sea to make it obey him, and when he laid foundations to support the earth. I was right beside the LORD, helping him plan and build. I made him happy each day, and I was happy at his side.   I was pleased with his world and pleased with its people.
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord   **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING   **Colossians 1.15–20**
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians
Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen.   He is the first-born Son, superior to all creation. Everything was created by him, everything in heaven and on earth, everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities.   All things were created by God's Son, and everything was made for him.   God's Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together. He is the head of his body,   which is the church.   He is the very beginning, the first to be raised from death, so that he would be above all others. God himself was pleased to live fully in his Son.   And God was pleased for him to make peace by sacrificing his blood on the cross, so that all beings in heaven and on earth would be brought back to God.
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord   **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL   **John 1.1–14**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Father we praise you as Lord, all of the earth gives you worship,
for your majesty fills the heavens, fills the earth.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory be to you, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord   **Praise be to you, O Christ**
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

POST COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.