

## Psalm 128 [ Reader 1 ♦ Reader 2 ]

- 1 Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, ♦ and walk in his ways.
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands; ♦  
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be.
- 3 Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine; ♦  
your children round your table, like fresh olive branches.
- 4 Thus shall the one be blest ♦ who fears the Lord.
- 5 The Lord from out of Zion bless you, ♦  
that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life.
- 6 May you see your children's children, ♦ and may there be peace upon Israel.

**Leader** *O Christ, our true vine, may we your branches be ever fruitful in your service and share your love and peace with all your children, in the power of the Spirit and to the glory of the Father. Amen.*

## Reflection & Prayers

**Reader 1** Sovereign Lord, your Son has revealed you as our heavenly Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

You have made your Church a spiritual family, a household of faith.

Through baptism we are reborn as the brothers and sisters of Christ.

Deepen our unity and fellowship in him.

You sent your Son to give his life as a ransom for the whole human family.

Give justice, peace and racial harmony to the world he died to save.

You gave your Son a share in the life of a family in Nazareth.

Help us to value our families and close relationships, to be thankful for them, and to live sensitively within them.

Your Son drew around him a company of friends.

Bring love and joy to all who are alone, bring healing to the broken.

Help us all to find in the brothers and sisters of Christ a loving family.

You are the God of the dead as well as of the living.

In confidence we remember those of the household of faith who have gone before us.

Bring us with them to the joy of your home in heaven.

## Lord's Prayer & Blessing

**Leader** Let us bless the Lord    **Reader 2** Thanks be to God