

Christmas Eve
25th December 2024

Sentence: Isaiah 9.2, 6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Collect:

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

1. O sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2. Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
3. Declare his glory among the nations:
and his wonders among all the peoples.
4. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5. As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
6. Honour and majesty are before him:
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
7. Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the nations:
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
8. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name:
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
9. O worship the Lord in holy splendour:
tremble before him, all the earth.
10. Say among the nations the Lord is king:
he has made the world so firm
that it can never be moved:
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.
11. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad:
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
12. Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:
then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord:
13. For he comes; he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading: Titus 2.11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2.1-14

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Luke 2.1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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Christmas Day
25th December 2024

Sentence: Luke 2.10-11

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Collect:

Almighty God, who gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary: grant that we being born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, ever one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 62.6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

1. The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.
2. Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
3. Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.

4. His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.
5. The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
6. The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.
7. They are ashamed,
all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.
8. Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements, O God.
9. For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above all gods.
10. The Lord loves those that hate evil:
the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.
11. Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.
12. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.

Second Reading: Titus 3.4-8a

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2.8-20

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Luke 2.8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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