

TODAY'S READINGS

CHRISTMAS EVE

FIRST READING

Titus 2. 11-14

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.

"For the Word of the Lord"

"Thanks be to God"

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10.5-10

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.

"For the Word of the Lord"

"Thanks be to God"

GOSPEL

Luke 2. 1-14

"Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!"

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!'

"Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!"

TODAY'S READINGS

CHRISTMAS DAY

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.'

"For the Word of the Lord"
"Thanks be to God"

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.

"For the Word of the Lord"
"Thanks be to God"

GOSPEL

Luke 2. 8-20

"Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!"

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.
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.

"Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!"

TODAY'S READINGS

CHRISTMAS ONE

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 2.265A

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. ²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

"For the Word of the Lord"
"Thanks be to God"

SECOND READING

Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

"For the Word of the Lord"
"Thanks be to God"

GOSPEL

Luke 2.41-52

"Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!"

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

"Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!"

Psalm 96 – Christmas Eve

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.

4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

6 Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
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 Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.

10 Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.'

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

12 let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13 before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 97 – Christmas Day

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.

Christmas One

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from heaven:

O praise him in the heights.

² Praise him, all his angels:

O praise him, all his host.

³ Praise him, sun and moon:

praise him, all you stars of light.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heaven:

and you waters that are above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for he commanded and they were made.

⁶ He established them for ever and ever:

he made an ordinance which shall not pass away.

⁷ O praise the Lord from the earth:

praise him, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

⁸ Fire and hail, mist and snow:

and storm-wind fulfilling his command;

⁹ Mountains and all hills:

fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ Beasts of the wild, and all cattle:

creeping things and winged birds;

¹¹ Kings of the earth, and all peoples:

princes, and all rulers of the world;

¹² Young men and maidens:

old folk and children together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord:

for his name alone is exalted.

¹⁴ His glory is above earth and heaven:

and he has lifted high the horn of his people.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the praise of all his servants:

of the children of Israel, a people that is near him. Praise the Lord.