



LECTIONARY

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM 96

1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole
earth.

2 Sing to the Lord and bless
his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his
salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the
nations *
and his wonders among all
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 na-
tions, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the
heavens.

6 Oh, the majesty and magnifi-
cance of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splen-
dor of his sanctuary!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you
families of the peoples; *

ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, *

when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will 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 Savior, 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.

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn:

"The First Noel"

#109

Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke**.*

People:

Glory to you, Lord Christ

GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-14(15-20)

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 Savior, 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 favors!” *[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.]*



Priest: ***The Gospel of the Lord.***

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Prayers of the People

After the lay leader has said the first prayer, please feel free, as the spirit moves you, to say the next prayer. If two or more start together please continue together

Please respond to each of these prayers with the
The Phrase in Bold

As we rejoice in the birth of our Lord: We pray with fellow Christians everywhere that we welcome Him in our hearts.

(Silence) : Saying Together

WELCOME LORD JESUS!

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom all leaders of nations around the world. *(Silence)* Saying together:

LORD JESUS LEAD US IN THE WAY OF JUSTICE AND PEACE!

We pray for our Armed Forces, especially those serving in harm's way, and their families.

(Silence) Saying together:

GOD OF GRACE, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

God of the shepherds, give your church humility and to all who sit in darkness alone and afraid the light of heaven's peace.

(Silence) Saying together:

GOD OF THE SHEPHERDS HEAR US!

God of hope, we remember those who suffer in body, mind or spirit (especially those who mourn). Please say the names of those for whom you wish to pray either aloud or in your hearts. *(Pause for people to mention names)* Saying together:

GOD OF MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

Compassionate God, we remember those who have died sharing our faith in Christ, and those whose faith is known only to you. Please name, either aloud or silently, those for whom you wish to pray

(Pause for people to say names) Saying together:

GOD OF LOVE, HEAR OUR PRAYER!