

READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Psalm 96

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

**2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
tell out 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 For all the gods of the nations are but idols;
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

**6 Honour and majesty are before him;
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.**

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

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

9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

**10 Tell it out among the nations that 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;

**12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.**

13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

Reading: Luke 2:1-14

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Christmas 2 Sunday January 1

Collect

God our Father,
in love you sent your Son
that the world may have life:
lead us to seek him among the outcast
and to find him in those in need,
for Jesus Christ's sake.

Psalm 147:13-21

13 Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion;

**14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blest your children within you.**

15 He has established peace in your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**16 He sends forth his command to the earth
and his word runs very swiftly.**

17 He gives snow like wool
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

**18 He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread;
who can endure his frost?**

19 He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

**20 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and judgements to Israel.**

21 He has not dealt so with any other nation;
they do not know his laws.

Alleluia.

Reading: John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.