

# The Nativity of the Lord (Midnight Mass)

25 December 2020

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness-  
on them light has shone.

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 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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-3, 11-13

**R.** Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

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

Sing to the Lord, bless his name.

tell of his salvation from day by day. **R.**

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
for he is to be revered above all gods. **R.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
within it thunder praise,  
let the land exult, and everything in it.  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. **R.**

Rejoice 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. **R.**

### **Second Reading Titus 2:11-14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation Luke 2:10-11**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel Luke 2:1-14**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**