

# Reading for the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**25<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

*These are the readings for the Dawn Mass, celebrated at dawn on Christmas Day.*

## **First reading**

**Isaiah 62:11-12**

**‘Behold, your salvation comes.’**

Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Sion,

‘Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.’

And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord;  
and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 97(96):1, 6. 11-12.**

*Today a light will shine upon us; for the Lord is born for us.*

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad.

The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory.

Light shines forth for the just one, and joy for the upright of heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, all you just; to the memory of his holiness give thanks.

## **Second reading**

**Titus 3:4-7**

**‘He saved us according to his own mercy.’**

Beloved: When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Luke 2:14**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

**Luke 2:15-20**

**‘The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby.’**

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*These are the readings for the daytime Mass on Christmas Day.*

**First reading**

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

**‘All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.’**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation, who says to Sion, ‘Your God reigns.’  
The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Sion.  
Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6. R3cd**

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*  
O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.  
The Lord has made known his salvation, has shown his deliverance to the nations.  
He has remembered his merciful love and his truth for the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise.  
Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn, raise a shout before the King, the Lord.

**Second reading**

**Hebrews 1:1-6**

**‘God has spoken to us by his Son.’**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son’? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God’s angels worship him.’

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
A hallowed day has shone upon us.  
Come, O nations, and adore the Lord;  
for today a great light has come down to earth.  
Alleluia.

**Gospel**

**John 1:1-18**

**‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.’**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that

was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me." '

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

At Christmas more than at any other time, *there's a welcome on the mat*. Many families have visitors home for Christmas; and we will surely be making a round of social calls, over the Christmas days. But among all the greetings and the welcoming of friends, there is one welcome of special depth and meaning.

For the people of the Old Testament, light and darkness held special significance. They tended to associate them often with virtue and wickedness in the community, and also with the day of the Lord's coming. Indeed, at Qumran on the Dead Sea shoreline, during the life-time of Jesus, light and darkness were seen as two opposing kingdoms, and the sun's victory over darkness was held to be a symbol of the triumph of faith over the blind pursuit of evil. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light." So begins the Bible account of the first creation, and when it was ended, "God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good."

This original goodness and justice was fragmented when our progenitors abused the freedom of will granted them by God, so that once again, as the prophet Isaiah says "darkness came to cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples." (Is 60:2), To dispel this darkness, a new creation was needed, and the ideal of goodness and perfection became a living reality, when the light of Christ came into the world. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; for those who lived in a land of deep shadow a light has shone." (Is 9:2). For God, who had created humanity in his own image and likeness, had now identified with the human race, and by assuming the body of a human child, had come down among us. The Christmas invitation is, Come to Jesus and feel welcome. No matter what what we've done, or how badly we may feel – he can help us become all that we're meant to be: beloved sons, beloved daughters of God. Come to him... and yes, even if you feel that "churchy things" are not for you. "I don't like organized religion" you mutter. OK, but Jesus want to open doors for you, not close them. To those accept him this Christmas day, he gives power to become children of God. It is he, our Lord Jesus Christ, who brings us here today. With his help we can make a new beginning as individuals, as family and as a parish. So let us say it again. Come to Jesus this Christmas Day. His mercy, from a heart aware of all human suffering, has no limit. To those who accept him he gives power to become children of God. Come to Jesus, and make this Christmas truly happy, in your heart of hearts.