

## Christmas December 24/25, 2020

COMMENTATOR:

We gather tonight to once again welcome Christmas.

God is telling a story in our lives.  
It's quite a story-  
full of the promises God makes  
and our struggles to trust;  
full of mystery and angels  
with surprising news;  
full of hard endings  
and unexpected new beginnings.

Come, hear the story  
pay attention to the angels' message  
in your heart  
in this place and time.

Then join all creation  
in worshipping the God  
who tells it  
full of grace and truth;  
who comes in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
and makes our story holy.

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.  
Praise to the wisdom of love.  
Let us begin our prayer in song!

**FIRST READING: (LECTOR #1)**

**Isaiah 9:1-6**

*(turn the microphone on)*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom  
a light has shone.  
You have brought them abundant joy  
and great rejoicing,  
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,  
as people make merry when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them,  
the pole on their shoulder,  
and the rod of their taskmaster  
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

For every boot that tramped in battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
will be burned as fuel for flames.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us,  
upon whose shoulder dominion rests.  
They name this one Wonderful Counselor, God Hero,  
Savior-Forever, Ruler of Peace.  
Whose dominion is vast and forever peaceful,  
from David's throne, and over his kingdom,  
a power confirmed and sustained by judgment and justice,  
both now and forever.  
The zeal of the God of hosts will do this!

The Word of God. R/. Thanks be to God.

*(leave the microphone on)*

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**SECOND READING: (LECTOR #2) Titus 2: 11-14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

Beloved:

The grace of God has appeared, saving all  
and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires  
and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age,  
as we await the blessed hope,  
the appearance of the glory of our great God  
and savior, Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness  
and to cleanse for himself a people of his own,  
eager to do what is good.

The Word of God.            R/. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL: (PRESIDER) Luke 2:1-14**

A reading from the Good News according to Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus  
that the whole world should be enrolled.  
This was the first enrollment,  
when Quirinius was governor of Syria.  
So all went to be enrolled, each to their own town.  
And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth  
to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem,  
because he was of the house and family of David,  
to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.  
While they were there, the time came for her to have her child,  
and she gave birth to her firstborn son.  
She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger,  
because there was no room for them in the inn.  
Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields  
and keeping the night watch over their flock.  
The angel of God appeared to them  
and the glory of God shone around them,  
and they were struck with great fear.  
The angel said to them,  
"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news  
of great joy that will be for all the people.  
For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you  
who is the Christ, the Messiah.  
And this will be a sign for you:  
you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a  
manger."  
And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel,  
praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests."

The Gospel of our savior Jesus Christ.  
R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Commentator:** Gathered as one Church throughout the world we celebrate the birth of our Savior and we rejoice with the angels. With thanks and humility we offer our prayers and petitions to God.

1. That the light of the Christ child may illuminate the hearts of all who walk in darkness. *We pray to the Lord, **Lord hear our prayer***
2. That the birth of the Christ child may proclaim peace throughout the land. *We pray to the Lord, **Lord hear our prayer***
3. That we will be filled with the promise of the Christ child, who is the good news of great joy for all people. *We pray to the Lord, **Lord hear our prayer***
4. That the gentle presence of the Christ child with his mother, Mary, may offer hope to those who suffer in mind, body or spirit. *We pray to the Lord, **Lord hear our prayer***
5. Loving God, we pray that this celebration of the birth of your son may unite us in one Spirit. May the wonder, peace, and joy of the nativity remain with us now and forever. We pray through Jesus Christ, the radiant light of your glory. *We pray to the Lord, **Lord hear our prayer***

We invite you to unmute your mic and share your personal prayers with our community. We would very much like to pray with you

*Commentator after people are no longer offering individual prayers :*

We thank you, inbreaking God, for the gift of Christmas. As we celebrate the birth of Christ today and in the days ahead, may we be filled with a spirit of gratitude for the perfect gift: Emmanuel, God With Us. Then, grant us the courage to share that gift with those around us. Amen