

A Reading from the second 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 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 host will do this.

The Word of the Lord!

A Reading from the Letter of Saint 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 manifestations of the glory of our great God and Savior,
Jesus Christ.

It is he 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!

A reading from the holy gospel 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 his 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 the Lord appeared to them
and the glory of the Lord 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 Christ and Lord.

And this will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant 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 his favor rests.”