

Sunday, December 25, 2022
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Prayer for the Morning

The Savior is born! Come, let us adore him, alleluia!

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn **Meter: 87 87 68 67**

What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.
Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.
So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Psalm **96:1-3, 11-13**

Today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. (Lk 2:11)

A strange ruler, an unexpected judge: the Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace, born as a child among the world's unimportant people. From the beginning, the Savior upsets every standard by which the unredeemed world has ruled itself. To celebrate Christmas in truth is to allow our eyes to be opened to God's view of reality.

**O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.
Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.
Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,**

let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father....

Word of God

Isaiah 9:1, 5

The people who walked in darkness/ have seen a great light;/ Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom/ a light has shone./ For a child is born to us, a son is -given us;/ upon his shoulder dominion rests./ They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,/ Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

And we have seen his glory! (cf. Jn 1:14)

Canticle of Zechariah

The Lord said to me: "You are my Son./ It is I who have begotten you this day." (Ps 2:7)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. **Glory to the Father...**

Intercessions

Let us acclaim Christ the Lord:

R/We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you!

O Wisdom of God, you are our wisdom: **R/**

O Lord of lords, you are the newborn Child: **R/**

O Root of Jesse, you are the vine and we the branches: **R/**

O Key of David, you are the key to the gates of heaven: **R/**

O Dayspring, you are the light of the world: **R/**

O Ruler of the world, you are the Lord of lords: **R/**

O Emmanuel, you are God-with-us: **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

*Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever,
Prince of Peace: we bless you for the gift of your great
light. May all the world rejoice in your coming, O
Savior and Lord, who live and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

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Reading 1 Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains/ are the feet of him who brings glad tidings,/ announcing peace, bearing good news,/ announcing salvation, and saying to Zion,/ "Your God is King!"

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry,/ together they shout for joy,/ for they see directly, before their eyes,/ the Lord restoring Zion./ Break out together in song,/ O ruins of Jerusalem!/ For the Lord comforts his people,/ he redeems Jerusalem./ The Lord has bared his holy arm/ in the sight of all the nations;/ all the ends of the earth will behold/ the salvation of our God.

Reading 2 Hebrews 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe,/ who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being,/ and who sustains all things by his mighty word./ When he had accomplished purification from sins,/ he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,/ as far superior to the 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; this day I have begotten you?
Or again:

I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?

And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says:

Let all the angels of God worship him.

Gospel John 1:1-18

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 came to be through him,/ and without him nothing came to be./ What came to be through him was life,/ and this life was the light of the human race;/ the light shines in the darkness,/ and the darkness has not overcome it./ A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world./ He was in the world,/ and the world came to be through him,/ but the world did not know him./ He came to what was his own,/ but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God./ And the Word became flesh/ and made his dwelling among us,/ and we saw his glory,/ the glory as of the Father's only Son,/ full of grace and truth./ John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

*Prayer for the Morning text used with permission
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