



Christmas Day Readings

Mass of the Dawn

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your
incarnate Word,
the light of faith, which illumines our minds,
may also shine through in our deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 62:11-12

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.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm 96:1,6,11-12

**R/. This day new light will shine upon the
earth: the Lord is born for us.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
let all the coastlands be glad.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. **R/.**
Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul
to Titus 3:4-7

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.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Lk2:14

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 Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

May our offerings be worthy, we pray, O Lord,
of the mysteries of the Nativity this day,
that, just as Christ was born a man and also shone
forth as God,
so these earthly gifts may confer on us what is
divine.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, Lord, as we honour with joyful devotion
the Nativity of your Son,
that we may come to know with fullness of faith
the hidden depths of this mystery
and to love them ever more and more.
Through Christ our Lord.





Christmas Day - 25th December 2025

The Word of God

Today we celebrate the birthday of our King and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why was it necessary for the Word of God to become flesh? Because we needed a saviour who could reconcile us with God. Throughout the ages Christians have professed the ancient Nicene Creed: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man." The eternal Word became flesh for us so he could offer his life as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world through the shedding of his blood on the cross. The Word became flesh to show us the infinite love and tender mercy of God for his sinful people. In the feast of Christmas we relive the birth of the newborn Messiah King and we celebrate his manifestation to Israel and to the gentile nations, thanking God for the way in which he has saved us from the power of sin and the curse of death and destruction, and blessing him for the more abundant life that the Lord offers his followers through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit.

As we give and receive gifts this Christmas, let us remember this greatest gift of all, and give thanks.

Prayer at a Christmas Crib

Bless us, Lord,
as we come to Bethlehem
where animals and angels,
shepherds and kings
together behold your face.

Here snow becomes straw
and frost becomes flowers
as winter melts into everlasting spring.

In our holy Christmas
give us the riches of your poverty.
Show us the wonder of simplicity
as we join the angels
in proclaiming your praise:

Glory in heaven and peace on earth,
now and for ever.

Amen.



A Christmas Poem

The Oxen

Thomas Hardy (1915)

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures
where
They dwelt in their strawy pen.
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few believe
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve
"Come; see the oxen kneel

"In the lonely barton by yonder comb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.



