



# Christmas Day Readings

## Mass of the Day

### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

52:7-10

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.

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

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1-6

**R/. All the ends of the earth have seen the  
salvation of our God.**

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **R/.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **R/.**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **R/.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R/.**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

1:1-6

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.'

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

### GOSPEL

John 1:1-5, 9-14

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



# Christmas Day - 25th December 2025

## The Word of God

**T**oday 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.



