

<sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;  
<sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.  
<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.  
<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## CHRISTMAS

### 25 DECEMBER 2016

*These readings are provided, first, so you can re-read and reflect on them during the week, and second, if you wish, to follow the readings during the service.*

#### **Isaiah 9.2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
<sup>3</sup> 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.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> 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 onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

#### **Psalms 96**

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the Lord a new song:  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from  
day to day.  
<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations:  
and his wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup> For great is the Lord, and greatly to be  
praised:

he is more to be feared than all gods.  
<sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:

it is the Lord who made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> Majesty and glory are before him:  
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup> Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:

render to the Lord glory and might.

<sup>8</sup> Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:

bring offerings and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup> O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:

let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations that the Lord is king:  
he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved; and he shall judge the peoples with equity.

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:

let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

<sup>12</sup> Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:  
then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;

<sup>13</sup> For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:  
he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

### **Titus 3:4-8a**

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

### **Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

<sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

<sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

<sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.