

Readings + The Nativity of Our Lord + Sunday, Dec. 25, 2022

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces
peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ 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.

Psalmody Psalm 98

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done
marvelous things, whose right hand and holy
arm have won the victory.

**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the
sight of the nations.**

You remember your steadfast love and
faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends
of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift
up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp
and the voice of song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and
those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the
hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who
comes to judge the earth.**

The LORD will judge the world with
righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in
many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in
these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things, through
whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the
reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of
God's very being, and he sustains all things by his
powerful word. When he had made purification
for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the
Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much
superior to angels as the name he has inherited is
more excellent than theirs.

Holy Gospel John 1:1-14

*This is John's Christmas story, so to speak, and
his is the most mystical, drawing back to the creation
of the world and the first words of Genesis.*

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the
Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² The Word was in the beginning with God. ³ All
things came into being through the Word, and
without the Word not one thing came into being.
What has come into being ⁴ in the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose
name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify
to the light, so that all might believe through him.
⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to
testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which
enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰The Word was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of human will, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.