

READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 **His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.**
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 **He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness
towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.
- 6 **Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.**
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
- 8 **Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.**
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

Reading: Luke 2:1-14

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Christmas 1 Sunday December 31

Collect

God our Father,
in love you sent your Son
that the world may have life:
lead us to seek him among the outcast
and to find him in those in need,
for Jesus Christ's sake.

Psalm 148

1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

**2 Praise him, all you his angels;
praise him, all his host.**

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you stars of light.

**4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

**6 He made them fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**8 Fire and hail, snow and mist,
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;**

9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**10 Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and birds on the wing;**

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**12 Young men and women,
old and young together;**

let them praise the name of the Lord.

13 For his name only is exalted,
his splendour above earth and heaven.

**14 He has raised up the horn of his people
and praise for all his faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.**

Alleluia.

Reading: Luke 2:15-21

15 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.' 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.