

# 25 December 2021 - Christmas Day

## The Collect

Almighty God,  
you have given us your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that we, who have been born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 9.2-7*

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.  
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.  
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.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
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.  
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.

## Second Reading

*Titus 2.11-14*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and  
in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,  
upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope  
and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and  
Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that  
he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for

himself a people of his own who are zealous for good  
deeds.

## Gospel

*Luke 2.1-14(15-20)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus  
that all the world should be registered. This was the first  
registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor  
of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.  
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. He  
went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was  
engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were  
there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of  
the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord  
shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is  
born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the  
Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find  
a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the  
heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he  
favours!'

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

## Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,  
in this day you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.