

# The Living Word

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day**

**25 December**

## First Reading Is 52:7-10

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains,  
are the feet of one who brings good news,  
who heralds peace, brings happiness,  
proclaims salvation,  
and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'  
Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,  
they shout for joy together,  
for they see the Lord face to face,  
as he returns to Zion.  
Break into shouts of joy together,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord is consoling his people,  
redeeming Jerusalem.  
The Lord bares his holy arm  
in the sight of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 97:1-6 R.v.3**

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen  
the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. (R.)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)
4. 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 Heb 1:1-6

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title

which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**A holy day has dawned upon us.**

**Come you nations and adore the Lord,  
Today a great light has come  
upon the earth.**

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Jn 1:1-18

(or Shorter Form Jn 1:1-5. 9-14)

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.*

In the beginning was the Word:  
the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
Through him all things came to be,  
not one thing had its being but through him.  
All that came to be had life in him  
and that life was the light of men,  
a light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light  
that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.  
He was in the world  
that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him.  
He came to his own domain  
and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God,  
to all who believe in the name of him  
who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh  
or will of man  
but of God himself.  
The Word was made flesh,  
he lived among us.  
And we saw his glory,  
the glory that is his as the only Son of the  
Father,  
full of grace and truth.



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The glory of God and profound peace reaching out to embrace the whole of humanity are dynamically related in the baby in the manger. This is the song of the angels, and it is our privilege to join in that song at this Christmas Mass.

Every baby is a promise of a new future which fills one with hope. But *this* baby is unique. *This* Jewish boy baby is the body language of God. *This* baby is the sonburst of God entering our dark world. *This* baby shows us that God is not impossibly remote but, rather, God is as intimately close as a vulnerable infant.

And *this* baby fulfils all the yearning of the human heart. We want to love to the utmost. We want to be loved to the utmost. *This* baby enables both because he is without any finite boundaries or restraints: He is in-finite love reaching out to us.

Can we grasp all this? Probably not. So, like the little lambs nuzzling up to the manger, we just follow some deep intuition which says: 'I must kneel in adoration, it is good to be here.' We could pause for a moment to pray for the resolve to do our bit to echo the angel's message: 'I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by all peoples.'

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# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

angels    happy    Joseph    peace  
 Christ    inn    manger    sheep  
 engaged    Jesus    Nazareth    travelled



Q	S	N	Q	W	F	T	H	I	I	Q	V	I	H	X	D
R	O	P	N	Q	I	P	Q	A	P	L	U	D	A	Z	J
M	I	F	U	I	M	R	Q	X	M	B	F	E	I	V	U
N	R	C	C	S	N	S	K	Q	M	C	Z	G	Z	R	O
B	Q	R	O	K	C	A	T	U	X	X	Z	A	E	L	E
R	H	Y	N	K	B	Q	Z	H	P	A	E	G	O	O	C
I	W	A	N	L	V	M	V	A	A	Q	N	N	A	D	A
C	V	A	P	L	V	A	D	S	R	A	B	E	S	Q	E
S	B	K	R	P	F	G	R	Y	M	E	G	O	U	C	P
D	D	E	N	Z	Y	I	S	O	P	P	T	N	S	H	C
Z	J	S	A	Z	Q	S	L	E	G	N	A	H	E	D	Y
N	O	D	M	M	F	C	T	S	I	R	H	C	J	I	S
P	S	S	H	E	E	P	K	U	J	V	S	P	M	X	N
L	E	W	C	U	E	O	I	T	V	Z	L	Q	C	H	L
T	P	Z	P	W	Q	T	Q	X	U	D	E	M	T	U	V
H	H	C	B	W	A	R	V	F	G	H	V	S	W	J	Y
C	E	N	T	E	N	T	E	N	T	E	N	T	E	N	T

Join up the angels and see what they spell

