

## Readings for Christmas Eve

### Midnight Mass

People of God: shout and sing!

Tell the good news of peace on earth.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.

All God's people say:

Amen! Angels dance and the bright  
star shines.

All creation bows to the Lord of all.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.

All God's people say:

Amen! One with us, yet born to save, he will  
show us the way to God. Lord, bring us  
today into Christ's love.

All God's people say:

Amen!

People of God: shout and sing:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

#### Collect

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Isaiah 52.7-10

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.'

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.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

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.

#### Hebrews 1.1-4 [5-12]

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.[]

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'?  
Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?  
And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,  
'Let all God's angels worship him.'  
Of the angels he says,  
'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.'  
But of the Son he says,  
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'  
And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.[]

#### John 1.1-14

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

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

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who

received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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

Post Communion

Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us

with the bread of eternal life:

keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord.