

Christmas Vigil



Christmas Night | Christmas Dawn | Christmas Day

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord takes delight in you.

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,
until her integrity shines out like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity,
all the kings your glory,
and you will be called by a new name,
one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.

You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,
a princely diadem in the hand of your God;
no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',
nor your land 'Abandoned',
but you shall be called 'My Delight'
and your land 'The Wedded';
for the Lord takes delight in you
and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,
so will the one who built you wed you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 88:4-5.16-17.27.29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.'

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.'

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading † Acts 13:16-17.22-25

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak:

'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen!
The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors,
and made our people great
when they were living as foreigners in Egypt;
then by divine power he led them out.

'Then he made David their king,
of whom he approved in these words,

"I have selected David son of Jesse,
a man after my own heart,
who will carry out my whole purpose".

'To keep his promise,
God has raised up for Israel
one of David's descendants,
Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John
when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance
for the whole people of Israel.

'Before John ended his career he said,
"I am not the one you imagine me to be;
that one is coming after me
and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:
the Saviour of the world will be our king.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David.

A genealogy of Jesus Christ son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah,
 Tamar being their mother,
Perez was the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram was the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab was the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon was the father of Boaz,
 Rahab being his mother,
Boaz was the father of Obed,
 Ruth being his mother,
Obed was the father of Jesse;
and Jesse was the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon,
 whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam was the father of Abijah,
Abijah was the father of Asa,
Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram,
Joram was the father of Azariah,
Azariah was the father of Jotham,
Jotham was the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah,
Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah,
and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.

Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

After the deportation to Babylon:
Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,
Abiud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor was the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
Eliud was the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob;
and Jacob was the father of Joseph

the husband of Mary;
of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

The sum of generations is therefore:
fourteen from Abraham to David;
fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation;
and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

‘Joseph son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because she has conceived what is in her
by the Holy Spirit.

‘She will give birth to a son
and you must name him Jesus,
because he is the one
who is to save his people from their sins.’

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.