

Christmas Vigil



Christmas Night | Christmas Dawn | Christmas Day

First Reading † Isaiah 62:1-5

The Lord takes delight in you.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

About Zion I will not be silent,
about Jerusalem I will not be quiet,
until saving justice comes forth for her like a dawning light
and her salvation burns up like a torch.

The nations will see your saving justice
and all kings your glory
and you will be called a new name
which the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

You will be a crown of splendour
in the hand of the Lord,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

No more will you be known as 'Forsaken'
or your land be termed 'Desolate';
but you will be called 'My Delight is in her'
and your land 'The Espoused';
for the Lord will take delight in you
and your land shall be espoused.

Like a young man marrying a virgin,
your rebuilders shall 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.

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

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

How blessed the people who know your praise,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy all day long in your name,
who make your righteousness their joyful acclaim.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

He will call out to me, "You are my father,
my God, the rock of my salvation."
I will keep my faithful love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading † Acts 13:16-17.22-25

Paul spoke of Christ, the son of David.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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

'Men of Israel, and God-fearers, listen! The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and exalted our people during their stay in Egypt, and with uplifted arm led them out from there.

'Deposing him, he raised up David as a king for them, whom he attested in these words, "*I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will perform my entire will.*"

'From this man's posterity, according to his promise, he brought to Israel a saviour, Jesus, whose coming was heralded by John, proclaiming a baptism of repentance to the whole people of Israel.

'As John was finishing his course he said, "Who do you think I am? I am not he. Look! One is coming after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to undo."

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!

Gospel [longer form] † Matthew 1:1-25

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Roll of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, 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 the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse;
and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,
Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
Joram the father of Uzziah,
Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah;
and Josiah 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 the father of Abiud,
Abiud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
Eliud the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary;
of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Therefore all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations,
fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation,
and from the Babylonian deportation to the Messiah fourteen generations.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah happened like this.

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 righteous man and unwilling to expose her to disgrace, decided to dismiss her quietly. He had this in mind when suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife
because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
She will give birth to a son and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.’

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

*Look, the virgin is with child and will give birth to a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel,*

which means ‘God-is-with-us’.

When Joseph woke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took her as his wife. He had not had intercourse with her when she gave birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel [shorter form] † Matthew 1:18-25

Mary will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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HOLY FAMILY, Year A | HOLY FAMILY, Year B | HOLY FAMILY, Year C | 26 December — St Stephen