



# A Celebration for The Nativity of our Lord at Midnight

## Sentence

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.  
*(Isaiah 9:2,6).*

## Opening Prayer or Collect

Good and gracious God, who gave us your Son,  
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
the Saviour of all, lying in a manger:

on this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love.  
Join our voices with the heavenly host  
that we may sing your glory on high.  
Give us a place among the shepherds  
that we may find the one for whom we have waited,  
Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*or*

Loving Father,  
who sent your only Son into the world  
that we might have life through faith in him:

grant that we who celebrate his birth on this most holy night  
may come at last to the fullness of life in your heavenly kingdom;  
where he now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Readings for Christmas Eve

### *Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7*

*A Reading from the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9 beginning at verse 2*

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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Psalm 96 APBA p 323***

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song:  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations:  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:  
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Majesty and glory are before him:  
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:  
render to the Lord glory and might.
- 8 Render to the Lord the honour due to his name  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- 10 Say among the nations that the Lord is king:  
he has made the world so firm  
that it can never be moved;  
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
- 12 Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:  
then shall all the trees of the wood  
shout with joy before the Lord;

13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:  
he shall judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.

***New Testament: Titus 2:11-14***

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus, Chapter 2 beginning at verse 11*

For 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Gospel: Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]***

*A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,  
Chapter 2, beginning at verse 1*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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 went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. ]

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**