

**SUNDAY, Dec. 24 , 2021**

**Christmas 2021 – NIGHT The Nativity of the Lord**

**Readings: 1) Isaiah 9:1-6 2) Titus 2:11-14 3) Luke 2:1-16**

**FOCUS:** *Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice.*

Jesus, the Light of the World, comes to us when nights are longest and the days are short. He comes to a burdened world, smashing the yoke of sin. As our Redeemer, he breaks through the darkness in our hearts, bringing freedom and light. *Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice.*

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Isaiah prophesies the time when *the people who walked in darkness [will] have seen a great light ... for a child is born to us, a son is given us.* Saint Paul exhorts Christians to live holy lives as they await the coming of Christ. In the Gospel, Joseph and Mary travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to enroll in the census, and there she gives *birth to her firstborn son.* An angel shares this *news of great joy* with shepherds in the surrounding fields.

### **UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: With great rejoicing in our King, who has appeared in glory, let us offer our prayers this day.

- 1) For the Holy Father, may God grant him joy and strength as he leads the Church in the ways of peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For elected officials, may the Holy Spirit give them grace in governing with prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who lack stable housing, may they find strength in God and the loving support of others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here this holy night, may Christ be born in our hearts and guide us with his light, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For the faithful departed, may their joy be full as they join the angels and saints singing “Glory to God in the highest,” let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father in heaven, in your wisdom,  
please hear and answer our prayers through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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