

Sunday, December 24, 2022
The Nativity of The Lord / Christmas Night

- 1) Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7
- 2) Titus 2:11-14
- 3) Luke 2:1-16

FOCUS: In the darkness of this holy night, God's purest light appears.

The Christmas story is known to all through word, song, and tradition. But it is more than an account of a baby born in difficult circumstances. Tonight, we celebrate the birth of Christ in time. He is a child, innocent and powerless, and yet he has within him the awesome capacity to reconcile and heal the whole of creation. In the darkness of this holy night, God's purest light appears, offering us his mercy and a share in his eternal life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah; he will sit upon the throne of David and upon him will rest dominion and authority. Paul tells Titus that in Christ the very grace of God has appeared in our world and through him, we have all been offered salvation. Luke recalls the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, when the glory of God filled the very skies.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Great is the mercy of God who gives us Christ, our newborn King. Let us bring our prayers and petitions before him.

- 1) For the Church, as the body of Christ in the world, may God's abundant love inspire us in witnessing to his mercy for all, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For all people and nations of the world, may the peace of Christ reign in their lands and in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are alienated or disconnected from the Church, may the Holy Spirit touch their hearts this Christmas and restore them to unity in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, may God's grace inspire all in this faith community who have been called to vocation in the Church to respond generously, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died marked with the sign of Christ, may their souls soon enter the joy of the heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Eternal Father, on this holy day hear our prayers and answer them in the light of your great mercy. We ask this through your Son, Christ our Lord.