

First Reading

(Is 9:1-7)

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to Titus.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

Christmas Day

Priest:

Celebrating the birth that brings grace and salvation to all, let us place before God our needs and those of the whole world.

1. Standing in prayer with the Church throughout the world, may our worship and praise give glory to God, and our witness and ministry promote peace on earth. **Lord, hear us.**

2. Bestow your wisdom on all who govern the countries of the world. As we celebrate the birth of the Infant-Child, may those who make our laws always protect the dignity and rights of the fragile, the innocent, and the most vulnerable among us. **Lord, hear us.**

3. May the peace of Christ descend on the troubled parts of our world this Christmas. We remember our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ. We pray for peace and stability in Ethiopia, and the Holy Land, the place where our Lord walked and lived. **Lord, hear us.**

4. For those away from home and loved ones at Christmas; family members, our peace-keeping forces overseas, those who have to work, those who cannot afford to return home, and unable to travel during this time of pandemic. **Lord, hear us.**

5. Lord Jesus you were laid in a humble manger, because there was no room for you in the inn. Have mercy we pray on all who cannot share our happiness this Christmas time. We are mindful of the poor and the hungry, those who live alone, the elderly, the homeless, the bereaved, the anxious, those out of work, the sick, those in hospital the sick, and those separated from the ones they love. **Lord, hear us.**

6. We pray for our parish, our friends and our families: May we be honest and gentle with each other, forgive each other, love one another and treat each other as we would wish to be treated. **Lord, hear us.**

7. As a baby, Jesus was a refugee who fled with his parents to safety in Egypt. St. Joseph, protector of the family, watch over all babies and children in dangerous and violent situations. **Lord, hear us.**

8. We pray for those who have died. May they enjoy a heavenly banquet in the kingdom. **Lord hear us.**

Priest:

God of tenderness and compassion, fulfil now the longings of your people and guide our feet along the way marked out for us by Him who was born in time on this holy day. We make our prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen.