

**Saturday 24 December**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) VIGIL**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

Today you will know that the Lord will come,  
and he will save us,  
and in the morning you will see his glory.

**FIRST READING:**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 62:1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**

'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me."  
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.' **(R.)**

**SECOND READING:**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".'

The Word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:  
the Saviour of the world will be our king.

**Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. 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 man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

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## **AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus,

I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though you have already come,  
I embrace You and Unite myself entirely to You:  
never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen



## **READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

1st Reading: **Numbers 6:22-27**

2nd Reading: **Galatians: 4:4-7**

Gospel: **Luke 2: 16-21**