

Christmas Day Prayers

Friday, December 25th

Greeting

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

For to us a child is born

To us a Son is given.

His name will be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, Mighty God

The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest

And peace to his people on earth.

The lighting of the Advent Wreath

Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful

Invitation to Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.

Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty
and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary
responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the God of love
bring us back to himself
forgive us our sins
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Comfortable Words

This is a true saying, and worthy to be
received by everyone, that Christ Jesus came
into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1.15

Bible Reading Luke 2: 1-14

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!'

Video

Reflection

The video has just taken us back to the very first Christmas when Jesus was born.

Every year we remind ourselves that Jesus is God's long-promised present to the world. Jesus will grow up to save us from our sins and put the world to rights again. The disobedience and dislocation of the Garden of Eden are not going to have the final word. God want each one of us to have life in all its fullness and the gift of Jesus is how he makes this happen.

In Jesus we can see human and divine nature working in harmony. Jesus shows us what it means to live for others and to live with compassion. He teaches us always to be on the side of what is right and good, even if that involves dying for what we believe.

Jesus came to show us the way to God and to offer to Him the perfect human life. Only he can do that. His life, death and resurrection open heaven's gates to all who believe in him. Jesus gives us the privilege of becoming God's children. Jesus is a very special gift indeed.

Carol: In the bleak mid-winter

Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children
by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Intercessions

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.
Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who
rest in you.
Jesus, Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Carol: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

(The Blessing) or The Grace