

December 25, 2023 **The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)**

Old Testament

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
 are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
 who publishes salvation,
 who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
 together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
 the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
 you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

 "You are my Son,
 today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

 "I will be to him a father,
 and he shall be to me a son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

 "Let all God's angels worship him."

Gospel

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Gospel