**Christmas Eve**

**Psalm 110:1-4**

**Of David. A psalm.**

**1**The Lord says to my lord:[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+110&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15788a)]

“Sit at my right hand
    until I make your enemies
    a footstool for your feet.”

**2**The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying,
    “Rule in the midst of your enemies!”
**3**Your troops will be willing
    on your day of battle.
Arrayed in holy splendor,
    your young men will come to you
    like dew from the morning’s womb.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+110&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15790b)]

**4**The Lord has sworn
    and will not change his mind:
“You are a priest forever,
    in the order of Melchizedek.”

**Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 7:10-14**

**10**Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, **11**“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

**12**But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

**13**Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? **14**Therefore the Lord himself will give you[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17797c)] a sign: The virgin[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17797d)] will conceive and give birth to a son, and[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=isaiah+7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-17797e)] will call him Immanuel.

**Epistle Reading – 1 John 4:7-16**

**God’s Love and Ours**

**7**Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8**Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9**This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10**This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11**Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12**No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**13**This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. **14**And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15**If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16**And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:18-25**

**Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son**

**18**This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23163d)]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. **19**Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23164e)] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

**20**But after he had considered this, an 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 what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21**She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23166f)] because he will save his people from their sins.”

**22**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23**“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23168g)] (which means “God with us”).

**24**When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. **25**But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.