**Christmas Eve Midnight Readings**

**Psalm 96**

**1**Sing to the Lord a new song;
    sing to the Lord, all the earth.
**2**Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
    proclaim his salvation day after day.
**3**Declare his glory among the nations,
    his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**4**For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
    he is to be feared above all gods.
**5**For all the gods of the nations are idols,
    but the Lord made the heavens.
**6**Splendor and majesty are before him;
    strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

**7**Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
    ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
**8**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
    bring an offering and come into his courts.
**9**Worship the Lord in the splendor of his[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+96&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15475a)] holiness;
    tremble before him, all the earth.
**10**Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.”
    The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
    he will judge the peoples with equity.

**11**Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
    let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
**12**Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
    let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
**13**Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
    he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
    and the peoples in his faithfulness.

**Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 9:2-7**

**2**The people walking in darkness
    have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
    a light has dawned.
**3**You have enlarged the nation
    and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
    as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
    when dividing the plunder.
**4**For as in the day of Midian’s defeat,
    you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
    the bar across their shoulders,
    the rod of their oppressor.
**5**Every warrior’s boot used in battle
    and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
    will be fuel for the fire.
**6**For to us a child is born,
    to us a son is given,
    and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
    Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**7**Of the greatness of his government and peace
    there will be no end.
He will reign on David’s throne
    and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
    with justice and righteousness
    from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
    will accomplish this.

**Epistle Reading - Titus 2:11-14**

**11**For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. **12**It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, **13**while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, **14**who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

**Gospel Reading - Luke 2:1-14**

**The Birth of Jesus**

**2**In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2**(This was the first census that took place while[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24976a)] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3**And everyone went to their own town to register.

**4**So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5**He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6**While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7**and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**8**And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9**An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12**This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**13**Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**14**“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
    and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”