**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Psalm 2**

**1**Why do the nations conspire[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-13947a)]
    and the peoples plot in vain?
**2**The kings of the earth rise up
    and the rulers band together
    against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,
**3**“Let us break their chains
    and throw off their shackles.”

**4**The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
    the Lord scoffs at them.
**5**He rebukes them in his anger
    and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
**6**“I have installed my king
    on Zion, my holy mountain.”

**7**I will proclaim the Lord’s decree:

He said to me, “You are my son;
    today I have become your father.
**8**Ask me,
    and I will make the nations your inheritance,
    the ends of the earth your possession.
**9**You will break them with a rod of iron[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-13955b)];
    you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

**10**Therefore, you kings, be wise;
    be warned, you rulers of the earth.
**11**Serve the Lord with fear
    and celebrate his rule with trembling.
**12**Kiss his son, or he will be angry
    and your way will lead to your destruction,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
    Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

**Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10**

**7**How beautiful on the mountains
    are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
    who bring good tidings,
    who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
    “Your God reigns!”
**8**Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
    together they shout for joy.
When the Lord returns to Zion,
    they will see it with their own eyes.
**9**Burst into songs of joy together,
    you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
    he has redeemed Jerusalem.
**10**The Lord will lay bare his holy arm
    in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
    the salvation of our God.

**Epistle Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6**

**God’s Final Word: His Son**

**1**In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2**but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **3**The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. **4**So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

**The Son Superior to Angels**

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

“You are my Son;
    today I have become your Father”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hebrews+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29969a)]?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
    and he will be my Son”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hebrews+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29969b)]?

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

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hebrews+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29970c)]

**Gospel Reading - John 1:1-14**

**The Word Became Flesh**

**1**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was with God in the beginning. **3**Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4**In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26050a)] it.

**6**There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7**He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8**He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

**9**The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10**He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11**He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12**Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13**children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

**14**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.