



# Christmas

## God Is With Us

### Introduction

This is a great night (day). It is a night (day) we should experience a closeness to one another. For Christmas is a time for taking off the masks: for admitting that we are fellow human beings, in fact brothers and sisters. Let us think about this for a moment.

### Midnight Mass

#### First Reading (Isaiah 9:1-7)

This reading looks forward to the coming of a Saviour-child who will rescue his people from darkness and oppression and enable them to live in security and peace.

#### Second Reading (Titus 2:11-14)

St. Paul reminds us of what is expected of us if we are to enjoy the salvation won for us by Christ.

#### Gospel (Luke 2:1-14)

This tells about the birth of Christ our Saviour in a manger and how the glad news of his birth was brought by angels to simple shepherds.

### Dawn Mass

#### First Reading (Isaiah 62:11-12)

With the birth of our Lord the Christian people can taste the joy of the exiles returning from Babylon.

#### Second Reading (Titus 3:4-7)

We ourselves did nothing to merit the birth of Christ; rather, God sent his Son our of compassion for us.



### Gospel (Luke 2:15-20)

With Mary we are invited to ponder on the deep meaning of the birth of Christ so that, with the shepherds, we may be moved to glorify and praise God.

### Day Mass

#### First Reading (Isaiah 52: 7-10)

This great hymn of exultation at the return of the exiles from Babylon is also a poem of joy for our redemption.

#### Second Reading (Hebrews 1:1-6)

This whole history of God's dealings with his people in the past was a preparation for the coming of his Son at a particular moment in history.

#### Gospel (John 1:1-18)

This is a great hymn to the Word of God, the source of all life, whose coming among us makes us children of God.

#### Prayer Of The Faithful

Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. Let us then with confidence place our requests before the Father.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

That through the coming of Christ their Saviour, Christians may walk in the light of sincerity and goodness. We pray in hope.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the world and for all mankind: that the birth of the Prince of Peace may spread understanding and unity among all peoples. We pray in hope.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Christ took on our human weakness: may he be the eyes of the blind, the strength of the weak, the friend of the lonely. We pray in hope.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



That the coming of Christ may fill our hearts with joy and make us heralds of his Gospel as it did the shepherds. We pray in hope.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

### Communion Reflection

In our times Christmas has become very commercialized and very pagan. Many people are lured into over-spending as well as excessive eating and drinking.

However, these abuses should not blind us to the true meaning of Christmas. When thick smoke rises up, catches in your throat, and brings tears to your eyes, it is because a fire has been lit.

Ever since the coming of Christ a bright fire has been burning on our earth, a fire that will never die. At this fire we experience the warmth of God's love, as well as the glow of human fellowship.

Let us not be afraid to come in out of the cold and warm ourselves at this fire.

So happy Christmas, everyone!