

# **The Season of Christmas**

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version<sup>®</sup>  
following the Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year C*

*Revised April 11, 2018*

# The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year C*  
*Evangelical Heritage Version*<sup>®</sup>

## Old Testament / First Reading

### Isaiah 7:10-14

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, <sup>11</sup>“Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”

<sup>13</sup>So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### 1 John 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>The one who does not love has not known God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God’s love for us was revealed: God has sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we may live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also should love one another.

<sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love has been brought to its goal in us. <sup>13</sup>This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup>We also have come to know and trust the love that God has for us.

God is love. Whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

## Holy Gospel

### Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. <sup>20</sup>But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

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# The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Midnight)

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year C  
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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,  
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.

You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor,  
as you did in the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>Every boot that marched in battle  
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born.

To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>There will be no limit to his authority

and no end to the peace he brings.

He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
from now on, into eternity.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup>It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works.

# Holy Gospel

## Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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# The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Dawn)

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Isaiah 62:10-12

<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates.

Prepare a way for the people.

Build up, build up the highway.

Clear it of stones.

Raise a banner for the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>Listen, the LORD is making a proclamation to the end of the earth.

Tell the daughter of Zion:

“Look, your salvation is coming.

Look, his reward is with him,

and his compensation is out in front of him.”

<sup>12</sup>Then they will be called holy people,

the redeemed of the LORD.

Then you will be called Sought After,

A City Not Abandoned.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

## Holy Gospel

### Luke 2:(1-14) 15-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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# The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,  
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,  
who proclaims salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God is king!”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.  
Together they shout for joy,  
because with both eyes they will see it  
when the LORD returns to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,  
because the LORD is comforting his people.  
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. <sup>2</sup>In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

<sup>4</sup>The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?

And again:

I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God’s angels worship him.

<sup>7</sup>About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever,  
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

<sup>10</sup>And he says:

In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth,  
and the heavens are the works of your hands.

<sup>11</sup>They will perish, but you remain.

They will all become old like a garment.

<sup>12</sup>You will roll them up like a robe,  
and they will be changed like a garment.

But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.

## Holy Gospel

### John 1:1-14 (15-18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup>John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.'" <sup>16</sup>For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

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# The First Sunday after Christmas

*Lutheran Service Book 3-Year Lectionary, Year C*  
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## Old Testament / First Reading

### Exodus 13:1–3, 11–15 (EHV)

The LORD spoke to Moses: <sup>2</sup>“Set apart all the firstborn for me, the firstborn of every mother among the Israelites, both people and animals. The firstborn belongs to me.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said this to the people:

Remember this day when you came out of Egypt, where you were slaves. For by the strength of his hand the LORD brought you out from there. Nothing with leaven may be eaten.

<sup>11</sup>When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites—just as he swore to you and to your fathers—and gives it to you, <sup>12</sup>then you must dedicate the firstborn of every mother to the LORD. Every firstborn of your livestock, the ones that are males, will belong to the LORD. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn donkey you are to redeem with a lamb. But if you do not want to redeem it, then you are to break its neck. However, you must redeem all the firstborn among your sons.

<sup>14</sup>In the future, when your son asks you, “What is this about?” you will say to him, “By the strength of his hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, where we were slaves. <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, the firstborn of people and animals. That is why I sacrifice to the LORD the firstborn of every mother, the males, but I redeem every firstborn of my sons.”

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Colossians 3:12–17 (EHV)

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God’s elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, to which you were also called, in one body. And be thankful.

<sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And everything you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## Holy Gospel

### Luke 2:22–40

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>(As it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be called holy to the Lord.”) <sup>24</sup>And they came to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

<sup>29</sup>Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word,

<sup>30</sup>because my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared before the face of all people,

<sup>32a</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

<sup>33</sup>Joseph and the child's mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, <sup>35</sup>so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup>Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

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# The Second Sunday after Christmas

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## Old Testament / First Reading

### 1 Kings 3:4-15

<sup>4</sup>So the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, because it was the most important high place. Solomon offered one thousand whole burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night.

God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

<sup>6</sup>Solomon said, “You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is seated on his throne to this very day. <sup>7</sup>O LORD my God, now you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And I, your servant, am among your people whom you have chosen, a great people, who cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. <sup>9</sup>Now give to your servant a perceptive heart to judge your people, to distinguish between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?”

<sup>10</sup>In the eyes of the LORD, Solomon’s request was good. <sup>11</sup>So God said to him, “Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, <sup>12</sup>therefore I will act according to your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before you, nor will anyone like you rise up after you. <sup>13</sup>In addition, I will give you what you have not asked for: such riches and honor that there will not be anyone like you among the other kings throughout all your days. <sup>14</sup>If you walk in my ways by keeping my statutes and commands just as your father David did, then I will give you a long life.”

<sup>15</sup>Then Solomon woke up and realized it was a dream. So Solomon went to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord. He offered whole burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and he made a feast for all his officials.

## Epistle / Second Reading

### Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

<sup>4</sup>He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves.

<sup>7</sup>In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. <sup>9</sup>He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. <sup>10</sup>This was to be

carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have also obtained an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in keeping with the purpose of his will. <sup>12</sup>He did this so that his glory would be praised as a result of us, who were the first to hope in Christ.

<sup>13</sup>In him, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him, when you also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. <sup>14</sup>He is the down payment of our inheritance until the redemption of God's own possession, so that his glory would be praised.

## Holy Gospel

### Luke 2:40-52

<sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

<sup>41</sup>Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. <sup>43</sup>When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

<sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

<sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?" <sup>50</sup>They did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>51</sup>He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

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