**The Season of Christmas**

*Scripture Selections from the Evangelical Heritage Version®
following the Christian Worship: Supplement 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*

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**The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)**

*Christian Worship: Supplement 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*

*Evangelical Heritage Version®*

**First Lesson**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

2The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

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

3You 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.

4For 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.

5Every boot that marched in battle

and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.

6For 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.

7There 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.

**Second Lesson**

**Titus 2:11-14**

11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. 12It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, 13while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He 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.

**Gospel**

**Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3And everyone went to register, each to his own town. 4And 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. 5He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

6And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7And 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.

8There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. 9An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! 10But 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: 11Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. 12And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, 14“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

15When 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.” 16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. 18And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20And 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.

**The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)**

*Christian Worship: Supplement 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*

*Evangelical Heritage Version®*

**First Lesson**

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

7How 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!”

8The 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.

9Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,

because the Lord is comforting his people.

He is redeeming Jerusalem.

10The 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.

**Second Lesson**

**Hebrews 1:1-9**

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. 2In 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. 3The 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.

4The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5For 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.

6And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God’s angels worship him.

7About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

8But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever,

and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

9You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

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

**Gospel**

**John 1:1-14**

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

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

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

14The 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.

**The First Sunday after Christmas**

*Christian Worship: Supplement 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*

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**First Lesson**

**Hosea 11:1-7**

When Israel was a child, I loved him,

and out of Egypt I called my son.

2The more I called to them,

the more they went away from me.

They kept sacrificing to the Baals

and burning incense to idols.

3Yet I was the one who taught Ephraim to walk.

I took them in my arms,

but they did not realize that it was I who healed them.

4I drew them with cords suitable for a man, with ropes of love.

For them I became like someone who lifts a yoke off their neck,

and I bent down to feed them.

5They will not return into the land of Egypt.

Instead, an Assyrian will be their king,

because they refused to repent.

6The sword will slash against their cities.

It will destroy the bars of their gates,

and it will devour them because of their plans.

7My people are determined to turn away from me.

Though they call him the Most High,

he certainly will not exalt them.

**Second Lesson**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

4But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, 5in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. 6And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “*Abba*, Father!” 7So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

**Gospel**

**Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

13After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him.”

14Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. 15He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

19After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, 20“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

21Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod’s son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. 23When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

**The Second Sunday after Christmas**

*Christian Worship: Supplement 3-Year Lectionary, Year A*

*Evangelical Heritage Version®*

**First Lesson**

**Genesis 16:1-16**

Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, bore no children for him. She had a servant girl, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. 2Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Please go to my servant girl. It may be that I can build up a family through her.” Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

3After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took her servant girl, Hagar the Egyptian, and gave her to Abram her husband to be his wife. 4He went to Hagar, and she conceived. When she saw that she had conceived, she looked down on her mistress. 5Sarai said to Abram, “This wrong that I am suffering is on account of you. I gave my servant girl into your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked down on me. May the Lord judge between me and you.”

6But Abram said to Sarai, “Look, your servant girl is in your hands. Do to her whatever seems good to you.” Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her presence.

7The Angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a flowing spring in the wilderness, beside the spring on the way to Shur. 8He said, “Hagar, servant girl of Sarai, where did you come from? Where are you going?”

She said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.”

9The Angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her authority.” 10The Angel of the Lord said to her, “I will greatly multiply your descendants, so that they will be too many to count.” 11The Angel of the Lord said to her, “Listen, you are expecting a child and will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, because the Lord has heard your affliction. 12He will be a wild donkey of a man. His hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him. He will dwell in hostility toward all of his brothers.”

13She called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You are a God who sees,” for she said, “Here have I really seen him who sees me?” 14Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi. It is right there between Kadesh and Bered.

15Hagar gave birth to a son for Abram. Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. 16Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael for him.

**Second Lesson**

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

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

4He 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 5he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, 6and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves.

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

11In 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. 12He did this so that his glory would be praised as a result of us, who were the first to hope in Christ.

13In 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. 14He is the down payment of our inheritance until the redemption of God’s own possession, so that his glory would be praised.

**Gospel**

**John 1:14-18**

14The 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.

15John 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.’” 16For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. 17For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father’s side, has made him known.