

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
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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
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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.