

CHRISTMAS EVE SCRIPTURE READINGS 2025

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2,6-7 (NRSV)

² The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light; those who
 lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and
 forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11 (NRSV)

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says
 your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to
 her that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid, that she has
received from the LORD's hand double
for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness
prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made
low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be
revealed, and all people shall see it
together, for the mouth of the LORD
has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said,
"What shall I cry?"
All people are grass, their constancy is
like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows
upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand
forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion,
herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah, "Here is
your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him; his reward
is with him, and his recompense
before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said

to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)

² In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-14 (NRSV)

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:15-20 (NRSV)

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.