

## Readings, Prayers & Hymns for Christmas Day 25/12/20

### Isaiah 62 6-12

6 I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;  
they will never be silent day or night.

You who call on the Lord,  
give yourselves no rest,

7 and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes her the praise of the earth.

8 The Lord has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:

“Never again will I give your grain  
as food for your enemies,  
and never again will foreigners drink the new wine  
for which you have toiled;

9 but those who harvest it will eat it  
and praise the Lord,  
and those who gather the grapes will drink it  
in the courts of my sanctuary.”

10 Pass through, pass through the gates!

Prepare the way for the people.

Build up, build up the highway!

Remove the stones.

Raise a banner for the nations.

11 The Lord has made proclamation  
to the ends of the earth:

“Say to Daughter Zion,

‘See, your Savior comes!

See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.’”

12 They will be called the Holy People,

the Redeemed of the Lord;

and you will be called Sought After,

the City No Longer Deserted.

### Titus 3 4-7

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

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### Luke 2 1-20

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done;  
On earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.

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1 Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,  
whereon the Saviour of the world was born.  
Rise to adore the mystery of love  
which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
with them the joyful tidings first begun  
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

2 Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
who heard the angelic herald's voice—'Behold!  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth  
to you and all the nations upon earth.  
This day hath God fulfilled his promised word,  
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord'.

3 He spake, and straightway the celestial choir  
in hymns of joy unknown before conspire.  
The praises of redeeming love they sang  
and heaven's whole orb with hallelujahs rang.  
God's highest glory was their anthem still,  
peace upon earth, from each to each good will.

4 Then Bethl'em straight th'enlightened shepherds sought  
to see the wonder God for us had wrought.  
They saw their Saviour as the angel said,  
the swaddled infant in the manger laid.  
They to their flocks and praising God return  
with joyful hearts that did within them burn.

5 Like Mary let us ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love in saving humankind.  
Trace we the babe who has retrieved our loss  
from his poor manger to his bitter cross.  
Follow we him who has our cause maintained  
and earth's first heavenly state shall be regained.

6 Then may we hope, th' angelic thrones among,  
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song.  
He that was born upon this joyful day  
around us all his glory shall display;  
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

JOHN BYROM (1692–1763) altid. \*

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
'Glory to God! On earth be peace,  
from heaven's all-gracious King';  
the world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long,  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and we, at bitter war, hear not  
the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise and end the strife,  
to hear the angels sing.

4 For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

E. H. SEARS (1810-76) altd.\*

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Silent night, holy night:  
sleeps the world; hid from sight,  
Mary and Joseph in stable bare  
watch o'er the Child beloved and fair,  
sleeping in heavenly rest,  
sleeping in heavenly rest.

2 Silent night, holy night:  
shepherds first saw the light,  
heard resounding clear and long,  
far and near the angel-song,  
'Christ the Redeemer is here,  
Christ the Redeemer is here'.

3 Silent night, holy night:  
Son of God, O how bright  
love is smiling from your face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

JOSEPH MOHR (1792-1848)  
tr. STOPFORD A. BROOKE (1832-1916) altd. \*

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night:  
God with you is now residing,  
yonder shines the Infant Light:

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of Nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:

4 Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear:

JAMES MONTGOMERY (1771-1854)\*