

Readings for 25th December 2020 – Christmas Morning 9am

A reading from Isaiah chapter 62 beginning at verse 6. [62.6-12]

- ⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD, take no rest,
⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured;
⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.
¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.
¹¹ The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.'
¹² They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD';
and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks to be God.

Psalm 97

- 1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**
- 3 Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.**
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.**
- 7 They are ashamed, all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements, O God.**
- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above the gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those that hate evil:
the Lord guards the life of the faithful, and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.**
- 11 Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy of the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.**

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen

A reading from Paul's letter to Titus chapter 3 beginning at verse 4. [3.4-8a]

⁴But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared,

⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour,

⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

⁸The saying is sure.

I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works;

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 2 beginning at verse 8. [2.8-20]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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 see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

¹³And 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 favours!'

¹⁵When 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.'

¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds returned,

glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.