THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

From the book of Isaiah 9.2-7

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. 3 You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**

Psalm 100

1 O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:

**serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.**

2 Know that the Lord he is God:

**it is he who has made us and we are his, we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

3 Come into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:

**give thanks to him, and bless his holy name**

4 For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:

**his faithfulness throughout all generations.**

THE SECOND READING

From the first letter of Titus 3.4-8a

**4** But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, **5** he 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. **6** This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. **8** The 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; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

For the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you.

**and also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2.8-20

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**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 Saviour, 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 favours!’ **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.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**