

The readings below are intended for use at the Eucharist celebrated during the afternoon of December 24, before or after first evening prayer, which is a separate vigil from the celebration of the Solemnity of Christmas. For the celebration of Christmas the readings for during the night are used.

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 62.1-5

The Lord's delight is in Zion.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says this:

- 1 "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- 2 "The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- 4 "You shall no more be termed 'Forsaken,'  
and your land shall no more be termed 'Desolate';  
but you shall be called 'My Delight Is in Her,'  
and your land 'Married';  
for the Lord delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.
- 5 "For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your builder marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.3-4, 15-16, 26+28 (R.1a)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:

4 I will establish your descendants forever,  
and build your throne for all generations." R.

15 Happy are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;  
16 they exult in your name all day long,  
and extol your righteousness. R.

26 He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

28 Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him,  
and my covenant with him will stand firm. R.

## SECOND READING

Acts 13.16-17, 22-25

Paul spoke of Jesus Christ, the descendant of David.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Paul arrived in Antioch,  
he stood up in the synagogue,  
held up his hand for silence, and began to speak:

16 "You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen.

17 The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors  
and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt,  
and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.

22 "When God made David their king,  
in his testimony about him he said,  
'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart,  
who will carry out all my wishes.'

23 "Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus,  
as he promised;

24 before his coming  
John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance  
to all the people of Israel.

25 And as John was finishing his work, he said,  
'What do you suppose that I am?

I am not he.

No, but one is coming after me;

I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.  
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:  
the Saviour of the world will be our king.

## GOSPEL (longer)

Matthew 1.1-25

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, son of David.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

- 1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah,  
the son of David, the son of Abraham.
- 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,  
Isaac the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
- 3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar,  
Perez the father of Hezron,  
Hezron the father of Aram,
- 4 Aram the father of Aminadab,  
Aminadab the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
- 5 Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab,  
Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth,  
Obed the father of Jesse,
- 6 and Jesse the father of King David.  
And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,
- 7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,  
Abijah the father of Asaph,
- 8 Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,  
Joram the father of Uzziah,
- 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
- 10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amos,  
Amos father of Josiah,
- 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers,  
at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon:  
Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel,  
Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,  
Abiud the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
14 Azor the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Achim,  
Achim the father of Eliud,  
15 Eliud the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob,  
16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary,  
of whom Jesus was born,  
who is called the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations;  
from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations;  
from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.  
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,  
but before they lived together,  
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man  
and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,  
planned to dismiss her quietly.

20 But just when he had resolved to do this,  
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
“Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,  
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will bear a son,  
and you are to name him Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place  
to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord  
through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”  
which means, “God is with us.”



24 When Joseph awoke from sleep,  
he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;  
he took her as his wife,  
25 but had no marital relations with her  
until she had borne a son;  
and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL (shorter)**

**Matthew 1.18-25**

**Mary will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus.**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

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When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,  
but before they lived together,  
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

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and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,  
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do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,  
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The gospel of the Lord.