**December 24, 2024 READINGS**

***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service***

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 Bible pg. 555**

2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. 3You 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. 4For 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. 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6For 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. 7His 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.

L) The Word of the Lord.

**All) Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM LITANY: Psalm 96 Bible pgs. 479-480**

 L) O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

 **All) Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

 L) Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

 **All) For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered**

 **above all.**

L) For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

 **All) Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his**

 **sanctuary.**

 L) Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

 **All) Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name; bring an offering, and**

 **come into his courts.**

 L) Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

 **All) Say among the nations, “The LORD is king! The world is firmly**

 **established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with**

 **equity.”**

 L) Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

 **All) let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the rest sing**

 **for joy**

 L) before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14 Bible pg. 969**

11For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L) The Word of the Lord.

**All) Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7 Bible pgs. 832-833**

L) The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

**All) Glory to you, O Lord.**

2In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph 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. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And 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.

L) The Gospel of the Lord.

**All) Praise to you, O Christ.**

**READING: Luke 2:8-20 Bible pg. 833**

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 Savior, who is the Messiah, a 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, b praising God and saying, 14”Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”c

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.