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| The Lessons Appointed for Use on  the Feast of |  |
| Christmas Day |
| December 25 / Selection I, RCL / All Years |

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

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.

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.

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.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood   
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For 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.

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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*[PAUSE]*

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.**

*Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

*[PAUSE]*

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.**

*Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)*

And it came to pass in those days,

that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus

that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made

when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee,

out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea,

unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem;

(because he was of the house and lineage of David)

to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife,

being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there,

the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son,

and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,

and laid him in a manger;

because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country

shepherds abiding in the field,

keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,

and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:

and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them,

“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,

which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,

which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you;

Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,

lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel

a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace, good will toward men!”

And it came to pass,

as the angels were gone away from them into heaven,

the shepherds said one to another,

“Let us now go even unto Bethlehem,

and see this thing which is come to pass,

which the Lord hath made known unto us.”

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph,

and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it,

they made known abroad

the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things

which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things,

and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned,

glorifying and praising God

for all the things that they had heard and seen,

as it was told unto them.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**