

FIRST READING

(Is 7:10-14)

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah:

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

BÀI ĐỌC I

(Is 7,10-14)

Trích Sách Tiên Tri I-sai-a:

Khi ấy, Đức Chúa sai ngôn sứ I-sai-a nói với vua A-khát rằng: "Người cứ xin Đức Chúa là Thiên Chúa của người ban cho người một dấu dưới đáy âm phủ hoặc trên chốn cao xanh." Vua A-khát trả lời: "Tôi sẽ không xin, tôi không dám thử thách Đức Chúa." Ông I-sai-a bèn nói: "Nghe đây, hỡi nhà Đa-vít! Các người làm phiền thiên hạ chưa đủ sao, mà còn muốn làm phiền cả Thiên Chúa của tôi nữa? Vì vậy, chính Chúa Thượng sẽ ban cho các người một dấu: Đây đây người thiếu nữ mang thai, sinh hạ con trai, và đặt tên là Em-ma-nu-en."

Đó là Lời Chúa.

SECOND READING

(Rom 1:1-7)

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

BÀI ĐỌC II

(Rm 1,1-7)

Trích Thư Của Thánh Phao-lô Tông Đồ Gửi Tín Hữu Rô-ma:

Tôi là Phao-lô, tôi tớ của Đức Kitô Giêsu; tôi được gọi làm Tông Đồ, và dành riêng để loan báo Tin Mừng của Thiên Chúa. Tin Mừng ấy, xưa Người đã dùng các ngôn sứ của Người mà hứa trước trong Kinh Thánh. Đó là Tin Mừng về Con của Người là Đức Giêsu Kitô, Chúa chúng ta. Xét như một người phạm, Đức Giêsu Kitô xuất thân từ dòng dõi vua Đa-vít. Nhưng xét như Đấng đã từ cõi chết sống lại nhờ Thánh Thần, Người đã được đặt làm Con Thiên Chúa với tất cả quyền năng. Nhờ Người, chúng tôi đã nhận được đặc ân và chúc vụ Tông Đồ, làm cho hết thảy các dân ngoại vâng phục Tin Mừng hầu danh Người được rạng rỡ. Trong số đó, có cả anh em, là những người đã được kêu gọi để thuộc về Đức Giêsu Kitô. Kính gửi tất cả anh em ở Rô-ma, những người được Thiên Chúa yêu thương, được kêu gọi làm dân thánh. Xin Thiên Chúa là Cha chúng ta, và xin Chúa Giêsu Kitô ban cho anh em ân sủng và bình an.

Đó là Lời Chúa.

GOSPEL
(Mt 1:18-24)

The Gospel According to St. Matthew:

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

The Word of the Lord.

PHÚC ÂM
(Mt 1,18-24)

Tin Mừng Chúa Giêsu theo Thánh Mát-thêu:

Sau đây là gốc tích Đức Giêsu Kitô: bà Ma-ri-a, mẹ Người, đã thành hôn với ông Giu-se. Nhưng trước khi hai ông bà về chung sống, bà đã có thai do quyền năng Chúa Thánh Thần. Ông Giu-se, chồng bà, là người công chính và không muốn tố giác bà, nên mới định tâm bỏ bà cách kín đáo. Ông đang toan tính như vậy, thì kìa sứ thần Chúa hiện đến báo mộng cho ông rằng: "Này ông Giu-se, con cháu Đa-vít, đừng ngại đón bà Ma-ri-a vợ ông về, vì người con bà cuu mang là do quyền năng Chúa Thánh Thần. Bà sẽ sinh con trai và ông phải đặt tên cho con trẻ là Giêsu, vì chính Người sẽ cứu dân Người khỏi tội lỗi của họ." Tất cả sự việc này đã xảy ra, là để ứng nghiệm lời xưa kia Chúa phán qua miệng ngôn sứ: Này đây, Trinh Nữ sẽ thụ thai và sinh hạ một con trai, người ta sẽ gọi tên con trẻ là Em-ma-nu-en, nghĩa là "Thiên-Chúa-ở-cùng-chúng-ta." Khi tỉnh giấc, ông Giu-se làm như sứ thần Chúa dạy và đón vợ về nhà.

Đó là Lời Chúa.

Fill in the BLANK

1. Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their _____, the lame _____, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are _____, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.
2. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my _____ ahead of you; he will _____ your way before you.

TRUE OR FALSE

3. John the Baptist saw the works of Christ but he was still doubt about Him. TRUE
 FALSE
4. The least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist. TRUE
 FALSE

UNDERLINE the correct answer(s)

5. Jesus is the one who is to come because He
 - A. Healed the sick.
 - B. Raised the dead.
 - C. Proclaimed the good news to the poor.
 - D. Was the messenger of God.
 - E. All of the above.
 - F. A, B, and C.
6. Jesus said: "...among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist" because John
 - A. Healed the sick.
 - B. Raised the dead.
 - C. Proclaimed the good news to the poor.
 - D. Was the messenger of God.
 - E. All of the above
 - F. A, B and C.

Điền vào chỗ TRỐNG

1. Các anh cứ về thuật lại cho ông Gio-an những điều mắt thấy tai nghe: Người mù _____, kẻ què _____, người cùi được sạch, kẻ điếc được nghe, người chết _____, kẻ nghèo được nghe Tin Mừng.
2. Chính ông là người Kinh Thánh đã nói tới khi chép rằng: Nay Ta sai _____ của Ta đi trước mặt Con, người sẽ _____ cho Con đến.

ĐÚNG HAY SAI

3. Gio-an Tẩy Giả đã chứng kiến các việc Chúa Kitô làm nhưng ông vẫn hồ nghi về Ngài.
4. Kẻ nhỏ nhất trong nước trời còn cao trọng hơn Gio-an Tẩy Giả.

ĐÚNG

SAI

ĐÚNG

SAI

GẠCH DƯỚI câu trả lời đúng:

5. Chúa Giêsu là Đấng phải đến bởi vì Ngài
- A. Chữa lành kẻ bệnh tật.
 - B. Cho kẻ chết sống lại.
 - C. Loan báo Tin Mừng cho kẻ nghèo.
 - D. Là sứ giả của Thiên Chúa.
 - E. Tất cả các câu trên.
 - F. Câu A, B và C.
6. Chúa Giêsu nói: "...trong số phàm nhân đã lọt lòng mẹ, chưa từng có ai cao trọng hơn ông Gio-an Tẩy Giả" vì Gio-an
- A. Chữa lành kẻ bệnh tật.
 - B. Cho kẻ chết sống lại.
 - C. Loan báo Tin Mừng cho kẻ nghèo.
 - D. Là sứ giả của Thiên Chúa.
 - E. Tất cả các câu trên.
 - F. Câu A, B và C.

Word SEARCH



MEMORY VERSE

"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us'."

Mt 1:23

HỌC THUỘC LÒNG

"Người ta sẽ gọi tên con trẻ là Emmanuel, nghĩa là 'Thiên-Chúa-ở-cùng-chúng-ta'."

Mt 1,23

T O E A F P S J U W S S S H C
 L D M S O J O S E P H B O O R
 R F M A R Y C V I R G I N N H
 E D A V I D O E T O R R Y S F
 R I N E H D N R P P H T C E H
 T D U F J S C A M H I H I I W
 P P E L E O E F W E D U O S A
 H O L Y S P I R I T I S N H E
 H D V D U I V A F J O S S W F
 P S I N S A E I E V E L A E D
 M I I H I S D D L J I V P J I
 R V O I P E E G I N T N N R P
 I O V V M P M I I S E N E E E
 D E H S U N L E N P W A I R D
 L S S O R C O Y Y H D I V V V

KEY WORDS

BIRTH
JOSEPH
AFRAID
SAVE
VIRGIN

JESUS
HOLY SPIRIT
WIFE
SINS
SON

MARY
DAVID
CONCEIVED
PROPHET
EMMANUEL

REFLECTIONS

FIRST READING

Does your name have a special meaning? Today's reading tells us the special title, or name, of the Messiah. His virgin mother will call him Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

How can you bring Jesus to the world? How are you a sign that Jesus is with us?

Today's readings bring us into the historical event of Jesus' coming among us, and we never forget that he came to us through Mary. This is why we honor her. In the Eastern Church, an icon called "Our Lady of the Sign" reminds us of this great event and of these verses from Isaiah. Our Lady is shown with her arms raised up in prayer, and in front of her is Jesus, drawn in a round circle, a symbol of her womb. Mary represents all of us, the Church. Jesus now comes to the world through us.

How can you bring Jesus to the world? How is the Church a sign that Jesus is with us today? How are you a sign that Jesus is with us?

SECOND READING

Paul was a master letter writer who had a great gift for opening people's minds and hearts to God. In this opening of his letter to the Christians at Rome, he identifies himself and his mission. He is an apostle sent by God to preach the good news to all nations. The apostle reminds us that we are called "to belong to Jesus Christ." We are called "to holiness."

How can I help someone else get ready for Christmas? Take a moment to ask Jesus for the gift of readiness for all he wishes to give you this Christmas.

The liturgy gives us one last push to get ready for Christmas and the celebration of the coming of Christ to our world! Ask yourself: Am I ready to welcome the Son of God into my life in a deeper way? What do I need during these last two days to be really ready in mind and heart? How can I help someone else get ready for Christmas? Take a moment to ask Jesus for the gift of readiness for all he wishes to give you this Christmas. Holiness does not mean perfection. It means being ready for Jesus, being willing to live in "obedient faith." What does this mean for you this year?

GOSPEL

Although Saint Joseph usually remains in the shadows of the gospels, in today's reading he emerges into the sunlight. We can see him clearly as a man who clearly loves Mary. When an angel assures him in a dream that Mary's child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, Joseph dares to believe.

What makes for rough times in a relationship? What can smooth things out?

Joseph's faith is richly rewarded. He becomes the foster father of Mary's child. And he receives the honor of naming the child Jesus, a name that means "Yahweh saves."

There is an old saying, "The path of true love never runs smooth." This may not be true for everyone, but it seemed to be true for Mary and Joseph. However, they could be true and faithful to each other because they were true and faithful toward God. And God made the rough ways smooth! What makes for rough times in a relationship? Between parents and children, husband and wife, friend and friend? What can smooth things out? Look at Joseph for an example. What did he have to do before he could move forward in a confusing situation?

Take a moment and pray: *Spirit of God, help us to be ready to celebrate Christmas. Help make all rough ways in each of our relationships smooth. Help us to be like Joseph, who dared to listen, to believe, and to love. Amen.*

St. John of Kanty

December 23rd



John was born at Kanty in Poland and was the son of good country folk. Seeing how intelligent their son was, they sent him to the University of Krakow. He was a brilliant student who became a priest, a teacher, and a preacher.

He was also well-known for his great love of the poor. Once he was eating in the university dining hall. At the beginning of the meal, he happened to see a beggar passing by the window. Immediately, he jumped up and gave the man his dinner.

Some people became very jealous of St. John's success as a teacher and preacher. His enemies finally told lies about him and managed to have him sent to a parish as a pastor. Here, he put his whole heart into the new life.

At first, however, things did not go well at all. The people did not like St. John much, because John was terribly afraid of the responsibility, although he tried to do his best.

But he did not give up, and he finally won the hearts of his parishioners. He was a serious man, and humble but all the poor knew him well because of his kindness. By the time he was called back to the university, the people of his parish loved him dearly. They went part of the way with him.

In fact, they were so sad to see him go that he had to tell them: "This sadness does not please God. If I have done any good for you in all these years, sing a song of joy."

Back in Krakow, St. John taught Bible classes and again became a very popular teacher. He was invited to the homes of rich nobles. Still, however, he gave everything he had to the poor and dressed very poorly himself.

Once he wore an old black habit, called a cassock, to a banquet. The servants refused to let him in. St. John went home and changed into a new one. During the dinner, someone spilled a dish of food on the new cassock. "Never mind," said the saint with good humor, "my cassock deserves some food, anyway, because without it, I wouldn't have been here at all."

St. John lived to be eighty-three. Again and again during all those years he cleaned out everything he owned to help the poor. He slept little and that too on the floor. He did not eat any meat and ate only just enough to live.

When people burst into tears on hearing that he was dying, he said, "Don't worry about this prison which is decaying. Think of the soul that is going to leave it." He died in 1473.