

26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder:

27 Then did he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out.

28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

*Here endeth the first lesson.*

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### **Second Lesson: Matt 11:25-30**

*Here beginneth the twenty-fifth verse  
of the eleventh chapter  
of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.*

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

*Here endeth the second lesson.*

## **Addresses for Morning and Evening Prayer**

according to the  
1943 Lectionary  
of the  
USA 1928 Book of Common Prayer

Intended for use  
by Layreaders  
in the absence of a priest

by Ed Pacht  
Rochester NH

## **Second Sunday After Christmas**

## Morning Prayer A

### First Lesson: Micah 4:1-5, 5:2-4

*Here beginneth the fourth chapter  
of the Prophet Micah*

1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

**5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in

### First Lesson: Job 28:12-28

*Here beginneth the twelfth verse  
of the twenty-eighth chapter of the Book of Job.*

12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

13 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

14 The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.

15 It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.

16 It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.

17 The gold and the crystal cannot equal it: and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.

18 No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

19 The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

20 Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding?

21 Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the fowls of the air.

22 Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears.

23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven;

25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

*Here endeth the second lesson.*

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### Homily

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### Evening Prayer B

Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

3 Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

*Here endeth the first lesson.*

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### Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

*Here beginneth the second chapter of  
the Gospel according to St. Luke*

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

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

4 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:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 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.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 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.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 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.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?

12 That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

13 That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble?

14 As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.

15 Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

16 Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.

*Here endeth the first lesson.*

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### Second Lesson: 2 Pet 1:1-12

*Here beginneth the Second Epistle of St. Peter.*

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the

moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

*Here endeth the second lesson.*

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### Homily

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### Evening Prayer A

#### First Lesson: Isa 63:7-16

*Here beginneth the seventh verse of the sixty-third chapter of the Prophet Isaiah.*

7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.

8 For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour.

9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

10 But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

*Here endeth the second lesson.*

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### Homily

In this season we have heard the wonderful story from St. Luke's Gospel many times indeed. Its details are depicted all around us and repeated in a lot of the music we're hearing. This is as it should be.

The sweet and beautiful story deserves to be repeated again and again. We love the story, and well we should, but how often do we really think about what it all means, and how our lives should be changed by it?

Today's Old Testament lesson was probably chosen for this verse:

*"... thou, Bethlehem Ephratah,  
though thou be little  
among the thousands of Judah,  
yet out of thee shall he come forth ..."*

It ties in so neatly with the Gospel reading,  
with the wonderful events in Bethlehem,  
that we're tempted to bring yet another retelling  
of that Christmas story.

That would be a good thing,  
but it is also good sometimes  
to take another tack  
and think about somewhat different matters,  
about some of the implications  
of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem  
to the blessed Virgin Mary.

Listen to what the prophet Micah had to say:

*"... in the last days it shall come to pass,  
that the mountain of the house of the LORD  
shall be established in the top of the mountains,  
and it shall be exalted above the hills;  
and people shall flow unto it."*

We've heard of a King  
who was born at Bethlehem.

We've heard of wise men  
that came a very long way  
to pay Him honor.

We've developed customs, traditions,  
warm and happy celebrations  
in honor of the event.

We tell each other all manner of pleasant stories  
connected with our celebration.

For many of us Christmas is filled with  
the happiest memories we possess.

Perhaps that is all as it should be.

*chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians.*

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new

## Morning Prayer B

### First Lesson: Isa 49:8-13

*Here beginneth the eighth verse of the forty-ninth chapter of the Prophet Isaiah.*

8 Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

9 That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.

10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

11 And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.

12 Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

13 Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

*Here endeth the first lesson.*

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### Second Lesson: Col 2:6-17

*Here beginneth the sixth verse of the second*

We are, after all, remembering one of the most momentous events in the whole history of the universe, the coming of God to dwell in the midst of His own creation.

But how often do we give deep and strong thought to the reason for which He came? We love the old stories, and songs, we celebrate with our families. and it's a warm and wonderful time, but why are we doing it? Why did He come? Why does he keep on coming, Eucharist after Eucharist in our midst?

Here's what Micah had to say about that:

*And many nations shall come, and say,  
Come, and let us go up  
to the mountain of the LORD,  
and to the house of the God of Jacob;  
and he will teach us of his ways,  
and we will walk in his paths:*

Certainly He had a chosen people, a single nation raised up to be His very own. Just as certainly He has a chosen people today, as St. Peter wrote:

*“Ye are a chosen generation,  
a royal priesthood, an holy nation,  
a peculiar people. ...”*

and so we are, but why? St. Peter continued:

*“... that ye should show forth the praises  
of him who hath called you ...”*

and, as Micah continued:

*“... the law shall go forth of Zion,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”*

And how is His word to be brought to the nations?

The answer is simple:

It's carried there by those who go forth from Zion,  
by us, weak and timid though we be.

We have been called.

We have seen the Lord, and been fed at His Table..

We have heard His Word.

We have been entrusted with precious seed.

Are there those who do not believe?

Are there those in danger of everlasting Hell?

Are there those who need to know Jesus?

Do we know some of them personally?

Are we sharing the treasure we have been given?

Do we love our neighbors as ourselves?

Just a few days ago we celebrated His birth

We worshiped him in church.

We celebrated with our families.

There was joy.

There were gifts.

We received gifts from loved ones,  
just as we received the greatest Gift  
from God Himself,

and we gave gifts, out of love.

That is part of our tradition for this day.

Have we been giving the only gift  
that really matters for all eternity?

We heard again today the beloved story  
of a mother and child in a stable,  
of angels proclaiming the glory of God,  
and of shepherds who heard and saw and ...

*“And the shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God  
for all the things that they had heard and seen,  
as it was told unto them.”*

As Jesus said in another context:

*“Go thou, and do likewise ...”*

Let us pray.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel! Amen.

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