

**MORNING PRAYER
CHRISTMAS DAY
25 DECEMBER 2020**



'Adoration of the Shepherds', Gerard van Honthorst, 1622.

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL
WANGARATTA**

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God Most High, whose eternal Word chose a dwelling among us, that we might live in your presence: grant us a spirit of wisdom to know how rich is the glory you have given us, and how great is the hope to which we are called in the Word made flesh; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H RDNe6osrY>

(Words included in video)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Isaiah 9.2, 6

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

The Canticle, Te Deum Laudamus, is said.

We praise you, O God:
we acclaim you as Lord.

All creation worships you:
the Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven:
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you:
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you:
Throughout the world, the holy Church acclaims you:

Father, of majesty unbounded:
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory:
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you took our flesh to set us free:
you humbly chose the virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death:
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory:
We believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood:

and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

The Opening Prayer

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16,17

PSALM 96

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations:
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:
it is the Lord who made the heavens.

- 6 Majesty and glory are before him:
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
- 12 Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:
then shall all the trees of the wood
shout with joy before the Lord;
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:
he shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us in your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share our human nature, so we may be partakers in his divine glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 2-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

HYMN

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqt66rXDKJE>

(Words included in video)

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-20

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

May your word live in us, and bear much fruit to your glory.

SERMON

The Canticle, The Hymn of the Word, is said

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God,

And the Word was God:

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him:
and without him, was not anything made that was made.
In him was life:
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness:
and the darkness has not overcome it.
He was in the world:
and the world was made through him
yet the world knew him not.
He came to his own home:
and his own people received him not.
But to all who received him who believed on his name:
he has given power to become children of God;
Who were born not of blood
nor of the will of the flesh:
nor of the will of a man but of God.
And the Word became flesh:
and dwelt among us full of grace and truth;
We have beheld his glory:
glory as of the only Son from the Father.
And from his fullness have we all received:
and grace upon grace.

John 1.1-5, 10-14, 16

The Apostles' Creed is said.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60JFEsgruEY>

(Words included in video)

The Prayers

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CHORAL MUSIC

'The Blessed Son of God', Ralph Vaughan Williams
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Naxri7xSa3U>

'Blessed be that maid Mary', Traditional
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zMq74xuXqw>

'The shepherds' farewell', Hector Berlioz
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h7LZ9RmcCo>

Intercessions

Let us rejoice for our God has done marvellous things; let us give thanks for our God has come to dwell with us.

God of heaven and earth, we give thanks and praise for glad tidings of a Saviour's birth. We pray for all within our world who long to hear your message of peace today; for all who bring your tidings of peace and joy to the world. We pray for our Bishop, Clarence and for the clergy and people of our Diocese, and for all who minister within our local community. May we, like the shepherds, hurry to greet you, and make known to others what has come to pass.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of heaven and earth, we give you thanks and praise for glad tidings of peace to a warring world. We pray for our sisters and brothers with whom we share this earth. We pray for those who experience no peace, no justice, no dignity or no hope; for all victims of prejudice, hatred, violence and natural disaster. We continue to pray for all those people and nations who cannot celebrate Christmas this year because of the continued spread of the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for all those for whom this Christmas will be a time of illness or even death.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of heaven and earth, we give you thanks and praise for glad tidings of love to your lost and lonely ones. We pray for those for whom Christmas is a time of sadness, loneliness and distress. We pray for the unwanted and the unloved, for the hungry and homeless, and those afraid of the future. May we, like Mary, be bearers of your love to the world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of heaven and earth, we give you thanks and praise for glad tidings of healing to wounded people. We pray for all broken in body, mind or spirit. We pray for all who mourn the absence of loved ones at this time of year; for the sick and those who are dying and all who care for them, for those upon our parish list of prayer and for those we know who need you healing touch at this time. May we, like the Christ-child, bring your compassion to all who are in need.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of heaven and earth, we give you thanks and praise for glad tidings of everlasting life to your faithful servants of every age. We give thanks for Mary, Joseph and for all your holy people who have welcomed the Christ child to their hearts and homes. We also remember especially those whose Year's Mind occur at this time. Lead us, with them, to where you may be found, that with your people on earth and with your saints in highest heaven we may behold your glory and worship you.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Morning Collect

Lord and heavenly Father,
you have brought us safely to this new day:
keep us by your mighty power, protect us from sin,
guard us from every kind of danger,
and in all we do this day
direct us in the fulfilling of your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13.14

HYMN

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IGP68i3JvU>

(Words are included in the video)

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