

**Sentence of Scripture**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1,14

**Prayer of the day**

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.

**Readings**

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' <sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 98**

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the Lord a new song:

**for he has done marvellous things;**

<sup>2</sup> His right hand and his holy arm:

**they have got him the victory.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has made known his salvation:

**he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>4</sup> He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel:

**and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

<sup>5</sup> Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth:

**break into singing and make melody.**

<sup>6</sup> Make melody to the Lord upon the harp:

**upon the harp and with the sounds of praise.**

<sup>7</sup> With trumpets and with horns:

**cry out in triumph before the Lord, the king.**

<sup>8</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it:

**the good earth and those who live upon it.**

<sup>9</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands:

**and let the mountains ring out together before the Lord;**

<sup>10</sup> For he comes to judge the earth:

**he shall judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

## Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,<sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.<sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,<sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

## Luke 2:1-20

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.<sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup>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:<sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.<sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

<sup>15</sup> When 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.'<sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;<sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.<sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (NRSV)

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Holy Communion Services

Christmas Eve 7pm *St Matthew's Stanhope* (Corner Ryrie Street & Brand Street, Stanhope)

Christmas Eve 11pm and Christmas Day 9am. (St Andrew's)

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 10am Combined Service in the hall

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am Combined Service in the hall

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 10am Combined Service in the hall

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 10am Combined Service in the hall