

Christmas: Midnight Mass

Gospel text (Lk 2,1-14): At that time the emperor issued a decree for a census of the whole empire to be taken. This first census was taken while Quirinus was governor of Syria. Everyone had to be registered in his own town. So everyone set out for his own city; Joseph too set out from Nazareth of Galilee. As he belonged to the family of David, being a descendant of his, he went to Judea to David's town of Bethlehem to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was with child. They were in Bethlehem when the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger, because there was no place for them in the living room (...).

Christmas: "You are my Son; this day I have begotten you"

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, with the words “You are my Son; this day I have begotten you” (Psalm 2), the Church begins to live Christmas, meaning, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ in the stable of Bethlehem. Formerly, this Psalm used to belong to the ritual of Judah’s king coronation: Israel, because of his election, was felt as the “son of God” and, since the king was the personification of the people, his enthronement was experienced as a solemn adoption by God.

On the night of Bethlehem, these words acquired a new and unexpected meaning. The Child in the manger is truly the Son of God. He is not eternal solitude but rather a circle of love in an act of mutual surrender and re-surrendering. He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Moreover, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God from God, became man.

—God’s eternal today has descended on this ephemeral world of today, dragging our present’s passing into God’s perennial present.

