

**Psalm**

*Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7*

**The Reign of the LORD's Anointed**

- <sup>1</sup>Why do the | nations rage\*  
and the peoples | plot in vain?
- <sup>2</sup>The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,\*  
against the LORD and against his anointed, | saying,
- <sup>3</sup>“Let us burst their | bonds apart\*  
and cast away their | cords from us.”
- <sup>4</sup>He who sits in the | heavens laughs,\*  
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.
- <sup>5</sup>Then he will speak to them | in his wrath,\*  
and terrify them in his fury, | saying,
- <sup>6</sup>“As for me, I have | set my King\*  
on Zion, my | holy hill.”
- <sup>7</sup>I will tell of | the decree:\*  
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have be- | gotten you.
- <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,\*  
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.
- <sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a | rod of iron\*  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”
- <sup>10</sup>Now therefore, O | kings, be wise,\*  
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.
- <sup>11</sup>Serve the | LORD with fear,\*  
and rejoice with | trembling.
- <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly | kindled.\*  
Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

## Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38*

<sup>17</sup>In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. <sup>18</sup>Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. <sup>19</sup>And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>20</sup>He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. <sup>21</sup>And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

### The Glory of the LORD

<sup>34</sup>Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup>And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup>Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup>But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup>For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

## Gradual

*Psalm 118:26a, 27a, 23*

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!\*

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.

This is the LORD's | doing;\*

it is marvelous | in our eyes.

## Epistle

*Titus 3:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:1–18*

### The Word Became Flesh

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

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## Readings for Christmas Day 2021

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