12 Readings at Royal Hours for Nativity (Read December 24th/January 6th)

## **Micah 5:2-4 *(1st Hour, Prophecy)***

**2** “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” **3** Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. **4** And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

## **Hebrews 1:1-12 *(1st Hour, Epistle)***

**1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **3** who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. **5** For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”? **6** But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” **7** And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.” **8** But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. **9** You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” **10** And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. **11** They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; **12** like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

## **Matthew 1:18-25 *(1st Hour, Gospel)***

**18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. **20** But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” **22** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’” **24** Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, **25** and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

## **Jeremiah (Baruch 3:35-4:4) *(3rd Hour, Prophecy)***

**35** This is our God; no other can be compared to him! **36** He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to Jacob his servant and to Israel whom He loved. **37** Afterward she appeared on earth and lived among men. **1** She is the book of the commandments of God, and the law that endures for ever. All who hold fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. **2** Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light. **3** Do not give your glory to another, or your advantage to an alien people. **4** Happy we are, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

## **Galatians 3:23-29 *(3rd Hour, Epistle)***

**23** But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. **24** Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **25** But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. **26** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

## **Luke 2:1-20 *(3rd Hour, Gospel)***

**1** And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. **3** So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. **4** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. **6** So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. **8** Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!” **15** So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. **17** Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. **18** And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

## **Isaiah 7:10-16; 8:1-4, 9-10 *(6th Hour, Prophecy)***

**10** Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, **11** “Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” **12** But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!” **13** Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? **14** “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. **15** “Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. **16** “For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. **1** Moreover the Lord said to me, “Take a large scroll, and write on it with a man’s pen concerning Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. **2** “And I will take for Myself faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah.” **3** Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, “Call his name Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz; **4** “for before the child shall have knowledge to cry ‘My father’ and ‘My mother,’ the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be taken away before the king of Assyria.” **9** “Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Give ear, all you from far countries. Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces. **10** Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak the word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.”

## **Hebrews 1:10-2:3 *(6th Hour, Epistle)***

**10** And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. **11** They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; **12** like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.” **13** But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? **14** Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? **1** Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. **2** For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, **3** how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

## **Matthew 2:1-12 *(6th Hour, Gospel)***

**1** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **5** So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: **6** ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” **7** Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.” **9** When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. **11** And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

## **Isaiah 9:6-7 *(9th Hour, Prophecy)***

**6** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His Name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

## **Hebrews 2:11-18 *(9th Hour, Epistle)***

**11** For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, **12** saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” **13** And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.” **14** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. **16** For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. **17** Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **18** For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

## **Matthew 2:13-23 *(9th Hour, Gospel)***

**13** Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” **14** When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, **15** and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” **16** Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. **17** Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: **18** “A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” **19** Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, **20** saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” **21** Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. **23** And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”