

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke** (*Luke 2:4-7*)

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Reflection - *What God chose for Himself at Christmas*

**Birth in a stable.** God is the provider of all good things. The kings have their palaces. The poor have their humble dwellings in which to be protected from weather and elements. However, when the King of kings, Lord of lords, Almighty God chose a place in which to be born, He chose for Himself not a place befitting His majesty and sovereignty but a cave, a stable, a dwelling place for animals. There must be many rooms put out for rental in Bethlehem that holy night, however, not a single was available for the One Who is the provider of all good things. For a bed, the new-born King of the Universe was content to sleep in a manger - a long open wooden box that horses feed from. For a mattress, the Heavenly King was content with rough straw to cushion His little body. For protection against the cold, the warm breaths of the nearby farm animals were acceptable. Such is the unsung greatness of our King and God!

**Simple, holy people for parents.** Joseph and Mary were lowly people in their community. Joseph was a carpenter earning a living with his bare hands. Mary was a housewife, working in her own home. They were not part of the religious elite. However, Scripture tells us Joseph was a just man, a righteousness man (cf. Matthew 1:19), a man who earned the great trust of God Who put into his care two of His most precious children: Jesus and Mary. Mary was a young woman who through her obedience and humility captured the heart of God who looks favorably upon her lowliness. *I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38).* God chooses His dwelling among the obedient and humble, and entrusts Himself into their care.

**Shepherds for witnessing His birth.** The birth of the Saviour of the World is a great momentous event, unrivalled by any other birth. It was a great turning point in the history of mankind, the herald of everlasting hope, the dawning of uncreated light that no darkness can conquer. Yet, Almighty God chose the rough lowly shepherds to be the messengers of the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ at Whose Name all knees must bend. *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified (Luke 2:9).* The simple shepherd had no problem in believing the wondrous message of the angel and lost no time in going to Bethlehem to pay homage to the new born Saviour, and after which to spread the good news of what they had witnessed. They did not disappoint God.

**Insignificant elderly people, Simeon and Anna for witnessing His presentation at the temple.** In the eyes of their community, these two were people of no consequence. They were poor and elderly. However, Simeon was a righteous and devout man who waited for and prayed ardently for the coming of the Saviour. Simeon held the concerns of God very close to his heart. His greatest wish before he died was to see the promised Saviour. God revealed to him through the Holy Spirit that he would witness the Saviour before he died (cf. Luke 2:25-32). Anna was a very old widow who never left the temple but fasted and prayed day and night (cf. Luke 2:36-38). She too was waiting ardently for the Saviour. Unlike the cold, big world with many people with closed hearts who had no time or room for His Son, God found warmth and welcome in these two lowly hearts who dedicated their lives to Him. God made them witnesses of His Son's presentation at the temple. God knows how to reward those who have love and devotion for Him.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, on behalf of those who did not acknowledge or thank You for Your coming to us in the flesh, I render to You the thanksgiving and love of Mary, Joseph, Simeon, Anna and the simple shepherds that spread Your good news. On behalf of the souls who do not welcome You, I surrender to You my mind, heart, body and soul so that You through Your mercy and power open their hearts to receive You this Christmas. Through Your mercy and love, may You open all eyes to see the truth of Your love and Your promise of eternal life. Mary, Mother of Salvation fill all hearts with Your love for Jesus so that all may grow to love Jesus as You do. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.