

## **A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 2**

*Refrain:* The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.

**All: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.**

1 Why are the nations in tumult, ♦  
and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?

2 The kings of the earth rise up,  
and the rulers take counsel together, ♦  
against the Lord and against his anointed:

3 'Let us break their bonds asunder ♦  
and cast away their cords from us.'

**All: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.**

4 He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; ♦  
the Lord shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall he speak to them in his wrath ♦  
and terrify them in his fury:

6 'Yet have I set my king ♦  
upon my holy hill of Zion.'

**All: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.**

7 I will proclaim the decree of the Lord; ♦  
he said to me: 'You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

8 'Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance ♦  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron ♦  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'

**All: The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.**

10 Now therefore be wise, O kings; ♦

be prudent, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear, and with trembling kiss his feet, ♦

lest he be angry and you perish from the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.

12 Happy are all they ♦ who take refuge in him.

**All: *The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.***

### **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**