

You have increased
our joy and given us
great gladness...for
a child has been
born for us

(Is 9:2,5)

A woman, A child, A sign in history

Christmas

Vigil Mass: Is. 62:1-5; Ps. 88(89); Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt. 1:1-25; Midnight Mass: Is. 9:1-6; Ps. 95 (96); Ti. 2:11-14; Lk. 2:1-14; Mass at Dawn: Is. 62:11-12; Ps. 96 (97); Ti. 3:4-7; Lk. 2:15-20; Mass during the Day: Is. 52:7-10; Ps. 97 (98); Heb. 1:1-6; Jn. 1:1-18

Is the human story one of abandonment and devastation? Is there really any reason to hope? Is there a concrete prospect, within the framework of history, for our dreams of justice and peace? Or are we caught between delusion and resignation, shadows and mirages?

The disciples of Jesus of Nazareth cannot remain silent nor can they permit themselves to rest. In the heart of the night, they cry out with joy: A sign has been given to us—a Light for those who walk in darkness. Today, people have received a new name: they are all brothers and sis-ters, children of God.



The disciples of Jesus of Nazareth cannot remain silent nor can they permit themselves to rest. In the heart of the night, they cry out with joy: A woman has opened the way for us. A child has been born for us. We have been given a child! Can't you see this? Among the insignificant and the downtrodden, a Child has been born for all generations of human beings. He is poor and afflicted like us, even though he is the Son God: God-with-us. You say you want some small sign? Then take a good look; listen; come closer. Justice is being realized, walking barefoot through the streets of the world, bringing peace and cooperation among peoples, giving food to the hungry, consoling the sorrowful, healing the sick and tenderly accompanying infants and children.

Can't you see it? He has already been born and is growing up in our midst....

Fr. Luca Pandolfi

Lord, open our eyes to joy.
Make it possible for us to sing a new song,
to speak new words,
to perform new deeds,
to feel things in a new way.

Lord, enable the instruments you have placed in our hands,
our time and creativity,
our heart and weaknesses,
our ideas and dreams,
to all resound with joy.

Prayer

Lord, help us rejoice
with the land and the sea,
with the waters and the heavens,
with the plants and animals,
with our brothers and sisters,
with all peoples and cultures...
because we called upon you, Lord,
and you answered us.