

DECEMBER 25, 2015



# SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)



FOR THE MASS DURING THE NIGHT

ISAIAH 9:1–6

PSALM 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13

TITUS 2:11–14

LUKE 2:1–14

## REFLECTION

Christmas happens during one of the shortest days of the year, where in a twenty-four hour period there is more darkness than light. It is at this time of darkness that the Gospel reminds us, “the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5). Jesus is our light in the darkness. He became flesh and took on a human body with all of its hardships, challenges, and joys. Jesus felt the joy of friendships yet he also felt temptation, rejection, sorrow at the death of friends, and great physical pain. Jesus laughed and even cried just like we do. Jesus felt what it was like to be fully human. He didn’t get to pass by the hard parts. He even chose one of the hardest sacrifices of all by laying down his life for each one of us. By doing so he shows us the way through the darkness and brings us grace and truth. He does so by pointing to God the Father. Jesus reminds us that there is more than just the pain and toil of life here on earth. This is why we get so excited about the birth of the baby Jesus. A baby is so small and vulnerable and yet each baby born into this world gives us hope that life continues. There is the promise of all the possibilities that one life can bring. The baby Jesus is truly a light unto the world, overcoming the darkness of death. When we allow Christ into our hearts this Christmas, he can enlighten our lives and make everything brighter, including those dark parts of us. There is no better gift we can have than the reminder of God’s greatest gift to us; the gift of Light—a light so bright it breaks through our darkness.



“EVEN THE DARKNESS  
IS LIGHT TO HIM”

**MICHAEL CARD**

[www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=qQeGTlqY138](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQeGTlqY138)

## ACTION

Take a moment to think of what in your life feels dark and heavy to you. Remember this Christmas that you don’t have to carry your burdens alone. Emmanuel—God is with you! Listen to the lullaby “Even the Darkness is Light to Him” by Michael Card. As you listen, make it a prayerful meditation of you giving Jesus your darkness, and rest in the peace of knowing Christ is your light.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What is the darkness in your life right now?
- Where can you find the “light” in the situations named above?