



The Hebrew name “Yeshua” is transliterated as both Jesus and Joshua in English translations. It means, “Yahweh saves.” This day continues our Christmas celebration by directing our attention to God’s work of salvation in the birth, ministry, dying and rising of Jesus, first revealed by his name itself.

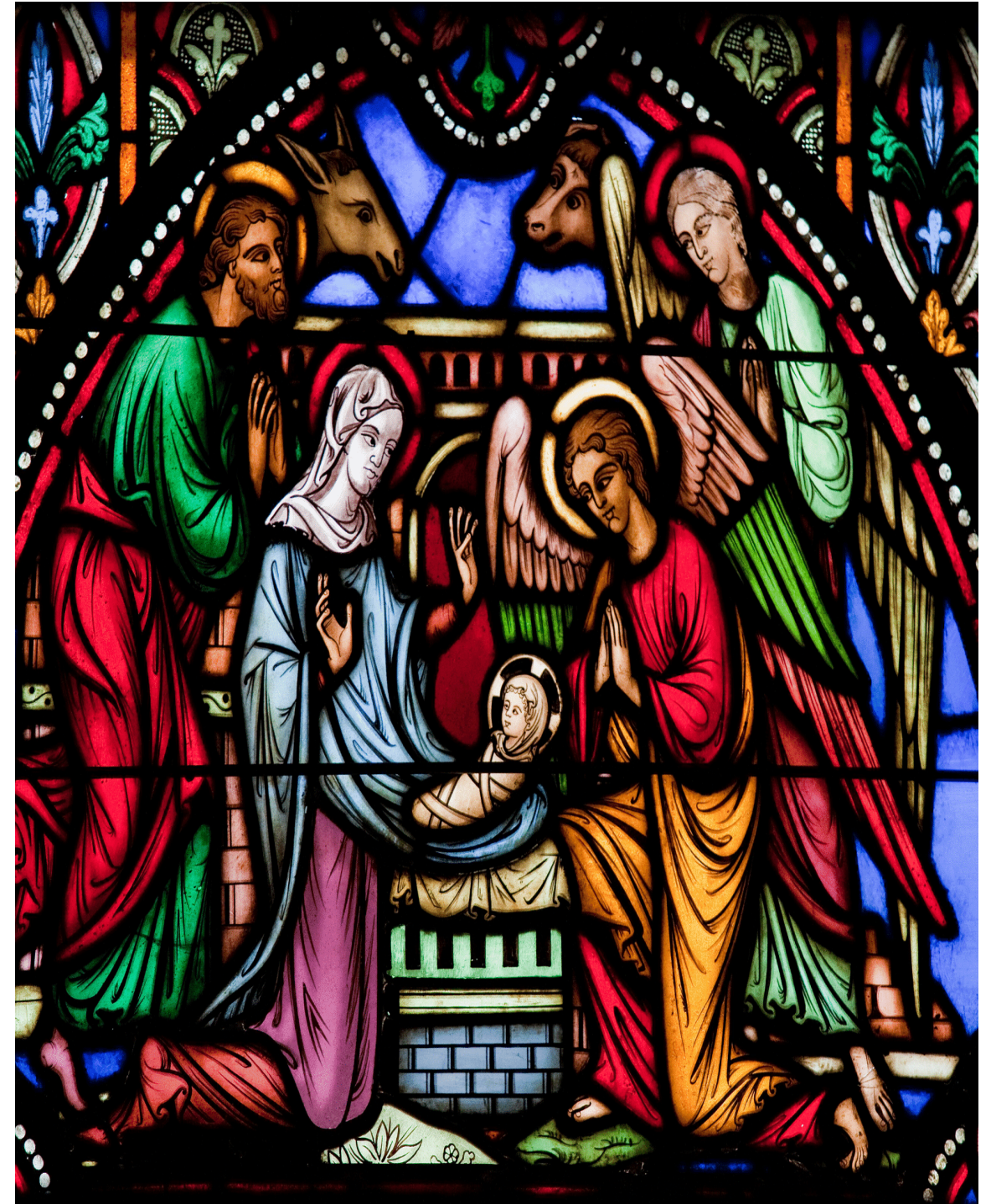
Our Gospel reading takes us again to the birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds, and the holy family’s obedience to Jewish custom in circumcising and naming their son. They gave him the name, which the angel had given before he was conceived.

The first reading is the familiar blessing from the Book of Numbers still used by both Jews and Christians. In it, God’s name is placed on us and we become people of the Divine Name.

In the reading from Galatians, Paul describes the human birth of God’s Son as one born under the law in order to open the way for all people to be God’s children. As children, we are accepted by God not by works of the law but by grace, the loving favor God has toward all the children of God.

We gather in Eucharist as people who have been baptized into that name and who are even now being called into the divine life of him who shared our human life.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.  
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## *Collect of the Day*

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting... *Amen.*

## *First Reading*

*Numbers 6:22-27*

The LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron and his sons, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you: The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

## *Psalms 8*

- 1 O Lord our Governor, \*  
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children \*  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, \*  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, \*  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? \*  
the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; \*  
you adorn him with glory and honor;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; \*  
you put all things under his feet:



- 8 All sheep and oxen, \*  
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, \*  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our Governor, \*  
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

## *Second Reading*

*Letter to the Galatians 4:4-7*

But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

## *Holy Gospel*

*Luke 2:15-21*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.