The Third Reading

*St Luke tells how Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem to register their names on a census of the whole world. And, while they are there, Jesus is born and laid in a manger.*

Now at this time

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census, the first, took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria,

and everyone went to his own town to be registered.

So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee

and travelled up to Judaea,

to the town of David called Bethlehem,

since he was of David's House and line,

in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed,

who was with child.

While they were there,

the time came for her to have her child,

and she gave birth to a son, her first born.

She wrapped him in swaddling clothes,

and laid him in a manger

because there was no room for them at the inn.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Luke 2:1-7 JB