**Psalters**: 243:1,5,6 - 109:1,2,3,4 - 448:1,4 - 450:1,2. **Scripture**: Luke 2: 1-20

**THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

1. **Seen in God’s leadings**

* In the Lord’s way with Elisabeth and Mary we see that salvation is the one-sided work of God.
* Though God uses man as instruments, His is the glory.
* Note the encounter between pregnant Mary and pregnant Elisabeth (Lk. 1:41-44, 46-47, 54-55).
* The joy of God’s children joy is multiplied when they may share what God has done to their soul (Ps. 34:2).
* Mary must return to Nazareth.
  + The way God leads His people can raise so many questions.
    - Is a blessing when we may commit it all in the hands of the Lord (cf. Lk 1:37-38; Ps. 37:5).
* There are times God’s children feel the Lord has forgotten about them (Ps. 77:8; Isa. 49:14).
* But the Lord *will* fulfil His promises (Isa. 49:15).
  + Uses Caesar Augustus as an instrument (Lk 1:2)
  + All what happens there is to the glory of God and the salvation of His people (Rom. 8:28).
  + Joseph’s situation is the means to ensure Mary travels to Bethlehem (cf. Lk1:27, Mat. 1:24-25 and Lk 2:5).
  + Not the slightest detail is left to chance (Lk 2:5).
    - Difficult circumstances for Mary.
    - So that Jesus will be born in accordance with God’s decree and according to the Scriptures (Mic. 5:2).

1. **Seen in God’s Gift**

* The time of Jesus’ birth.
  + Jesus was born at the time appointed of God (Gal. 4:4).
  + Such a long time passed since God gave the promises.
  + Ended with 400 years of prophetical darkness.
* The circumstances of His birth.
  + In great poverty.
    - There is nothing to glory in for natural man.
    - But the eye of faith sees in this dependent Babe incomprehensible divine love (Phil. 2:7).
* God reveals His glory to a lost people.
  + Already in His birth Jesus took upon Himself the sin and curse of His people.
  + Messiah under God’s law in order to fully pay the penalty for sin.
  + In the incarnation and suffering of Christ see complete redemption for the Church (Heb. 2:10-17).
* Note the purpose of Luke’s gospel (Lk. 1:4; cf. 2 Pet. 1:16).
* By nature, our heart is like that inn in Bethlehem.
* Room for Jesus needs to be made in our heart.
* Causes a hungering and thirsting in the soul for Christ.
* In the birth of Christ, God is glorified (Lk. 2:13-14).
  + Is it your desire too to glorify God?
* Without Christ, the sinner has no access to the Father.
* God opens the door of communion with sinners through Emmanuel (BCoF, 18).
* Fruit: we give God the glory (Lk. 2:20; 2 Cor. 8:9; 1 Jn 4:10).