

## Saturday, December 24

Reading: Luke 2:1-7 NRSV

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

O

Star

Of wonder,

Star of night, Star

With royal beauty bright.

Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Good Christians all, rejoice! With heart and soul and

Voice; Give ye heed to what we say: News!

News! Jesus Christ was born today!

Ox and ass before Him bow, and He

Is in the manger now, Christ is born

Today! Christ is born today!

Joy to the world!

Joy! Joy!

*And the mother wondered and bowed her head,  
And sat as still as a statue of stone,  
Her heart was troubled yet comforted,  
Remembering what the Angel had said  
Of an endless reign and of David's throne.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *The Three Kings*, Lines 66-70