

I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that Prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water, but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is who coming after me, is preferred before me, whose shoes' latchet I am not worthy to unloose. These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

*The Nativity of our Lord, or  
The Birth-day of CHRIST,  
commonly called Christmas-day.*

*The Collect.*

**A**lmighty God, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy holy Spirit, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

*The Epistle. Hebr. i. 1.*

**G**OD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the

fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right-hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels Spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands. They shall perish, but thou remainest; and they



*St. Luke Chant. 2. Verse 10.*

*And the the angel said unto them Fear not for unto you is born this day, in the City of David, a SAVIOUR which is CHRIST the LORD. And this shall be a sign unto you Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger*