

# Angels

Angels are God's ambassadors. God himself speaks, makes himself present through them. In Scripture, we see them ready to do what God wants: announcing an event, consoling, encouraging, accompanying a traveller on the road. Their name has the same Greek root as the word gospel, which means "sent", "messenger".

On December 17<sup>th</sup> the liturgical week begins which prepares for Christmas. The gospels preceding the birth of Christ are read, and the angels are very present in these stories:

In the Gospel of Matthew, an angel meets Joseph, several times.

In the Gospel of Luke, an angel meets Zechariah in the temple to announce the birth of John the Baptist, and Mary in her home in Nazareth to announce the birth of Jesus. A host of angels rejoice at the birth of the Saviour and announce it to the shepherds in the dead of night.

But once their task is fulfilled, the angels leave and life goes on.

The three angels in this tile stand with their hands clasped in an attitude of respect. Their eyes are turned in the same direction. They come from the east, from what is now Iran. They may have no direct connection with the gospel accounts, except that they radiate joy; except that their number, three, evokes the angelic pilgrims who accepted Abraham's hospitality in the middle of the day and told him of the much desired, yet physically impossible birth of a son, whose descendants would bear Jesus.

Take a moment to look at these three angels and welcome the joy of their message in your own life.