

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

ADVENT 4 (YEAR B)

COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Sam 7.1–11,16

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.

Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Magnificat



R. My soul rejoices in my God. (*All repeat*)



My soul glori-|fies the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in | God my Saviour.
For he has | looked with favour
upon the lowliness | of his servant. **R.**

And so from | this day forward
all ages will | call me blessed.
The Almighty works mar-|vels for me,
and holy | is his name. **R.**

His mercy is from | age to age
upon | those who fear him.
He has shown the strength | of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in | their
conceit. **R.**

He has cast down the mighty | from their
thrones
and has lifted | up the lowly.
He fills the starving | with good things,
and sends the rich emp-|ty away. **R.**

He protects his | servant Israel,
remember-|ing his mercy.
The mercy he promised | to our fathers:
to Abraham and his child-|ren for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 16.25–27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation

of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God be the glory through Jesus Christ for ever, Amen!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 1.23

Alleluia.

The virgin shall conceive and bear a son: his name shall be Emmanuel, 'God is with us.'

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Lk 1.26–38

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be

born will be called holy – the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, may the power of the Spirit, which sanctified Mary the mother of your Son, make holy the gifts we place upon this altar. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**