

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

ADVENT 4 (YEAR C)

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

Mic 5.2-5a

A reading from the prophet Micah.

The Lord says to his people: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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 blessèd.
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

Heb 10.5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).’ When Christ said, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1.39-45

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 those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

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.**