

SUNDAY, December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

God is faithful: Christ will come!
Let us rejoice and be glad!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever, Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn **Meter: SM**

Praise we the Lord this day,
This day so long foretold,
Whose promise shone with cheering ray
On waiting saints of old.
The Prophet gave the sign
For faithful folk to read:
A virgin, born of David's line,
Shall bear the promised seed.
Ask not how this should be,
But worship and adore
Like her whom God's own majesty
Came down to shadow o'er.
She meekly bowed her head
To hear the gracious word,
Mary, the pure and lowly maid,
The favored of the Lord.

Psalm **119:73-80**

He shall be a son to me, and I will be a father to him, and I will establish the throne of his kingship over Israel forever. (1 Chr 22:10b)

In the Annunciation made by the angel to the Virgin Mary, God's promise of salvation is kept. The hope of God's people is fulfilled, as our Advent hope will be fulfilled when Christ comes in his glory.

It was your hands that made me and shaped me:
help me to learn your commands.
Your faithful will see me and rejoice
for I trust in your word.
Lord, I know that your decrees are right,
that you afflicted me justly.
Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come and I shall live
for your law is my delight.
Shame the proud who harm me with lies
while I ponder your precepts.
Let your faithful turn to me,
those who know your will.
Let my heart be blameless in obeying
lest I be ashamed.

Glory to the Father...

Word of God

Isaiah 45:19, 21

I have not spoken from hiding/ nor from some dark place of the earth,/ And I have not said to the descendants of Jacob,/ "Look for me in an empty waste."/ I, the Lord, promise justice,/ I foretell what is right.

Come here and declare/ in counsel together:/ Who announced this from the beginning/ and foretold it from of old?/ Was it not I, the Lord,/ besides whom there is no other God?/ There is no just and saving God but me.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it. (1 Thes 5:24)

Canticle of Zechariah

I will bring upon them all the good I promise them. (Jer 32:42b)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

With trust in God's faithfulness, we pray:

R/ Let your love come and we shall live.

Let your love come and we shall live:

R/

You have sent your only Son among us as our Redeemer:

R/

You are our life:

R/

Personal intentions

Our Father....

Faithful God, your promise of salvation is fulfilled in the Birth of Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful to the promises we have made to you in baptism, that we may rejoice at his return in glory. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mass Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

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 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. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne, David, shall be established forever.'"

Reading Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To the One 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, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The Angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. "Mary said to the Angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The Angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said,

"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." Then the Angel departed from her.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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