

SUNDAY, December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Affirmation Prayer...

God will make his throne endure as the heavens:
come, let us adore.

**All: 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**

The advent of our God
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must meet him on his road
With hymns of holy joy.
The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set his people free.
Daughter of Zion, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.

Psalm **78:3-5a, 69-71**

*He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock/ by the
strength of the Lord,/ in the majestic name of the
Lord, his God. (Mi 5:3)*

*God promised to send as Messiah and Savior a
shepherd in the line of the great shepherd king of
Israel, David. God keeps his promises in
unexpected ways: the Child is born not of a ruling
sovereign but of a humble woman of David's line,
the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

The things we have heard and understood,
the things our fathers have told us,
these we will not hide from their children
but will tell them to the next generation:
the glories of the Lord and his might
and the marvelous deeds he has done,
the witness he gave to Jacob,
the law he established in Israel.
He built his shrine like the heavens,
or like the earth which he made firm for ever.
And he chose David his servant
and took him away from the sheepfolds.
From the care of the ewes he called him
to be shepherd of Jacob his people,
of Israel his own possession.

**All: 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.**

Word of God **Deuteronomy 28:2-4a**

When you hearken to the voice of the Lord, your
God, all these blessings will come upon you and
overwhelm you: "May you be blessed in the city,
and blessed in the country!/ Blessed be the fruit of
your womb."

Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God,
above all the women on earth.
(Jdt 13:18)

Canticle of Zechariah

*Hosanna to the Son of David;/ blessed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord;/ hosanna in the
highest. (Mt 21:9)*

**All: 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.**

**All: 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.**

Intercessions

From Bethlehem in Judah, too small to be honored
among the clans of Israel, came the new Ruler
and Savior, the shepherd born to fulfill the promise
made to David's house. To him we pray:

R/ Come and reward your people's hope!

Grant us the faithful patience of Elizabeth: **R/**

Grant us the faithful witness of John the Baptist:
R/

Grant us the faithful love of Mary: **R/**

Personal intentions

**All: Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be
Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be
done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this
day, our daily bread, and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are Son of God and Son of
Mary. Come and save your people, for you live and
reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Men of St. Joseph Prayer

All: 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!

***Prayer for the text used with permission
of Magnificat***

Reading 1 **Micah 5:1-4a**

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Reading 2 **Hebrews 10:5-10**

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel **Luke 1:39-45**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'