

Sunday, December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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: CM**

O Holy Joseph, you restored
King David's house and line,
O guardian of King David's Lord:
The Son of God divine.

When years at last their course had run,
And Mary's "yes" was said,
God chose you for his only Son,
And by an angel led.

Psalm **89:4-7, 16-19**

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,/ when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David. (Jer 23:5)

God promised to build an everlasting house for David. In sleep, Joseph, of the house of David, receives word of the promise's astonishing fulfillment: his intended wife has not been unfaithful but has been the faithful instrument in God's plan to save the world through the gift of the Son she has conceived by the Holy Spirit.

"With my chosen one, I have made a covenant; I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages."

The heavens proclaim your wonders, O Lord;
the assembly of your holy ones proclaims your truth.

For who in the skies can compare with the Lord
or who is like the Lord among the sons of God?

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,

who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,

who find their joy every day in your name,

who make your justice the source of their bliss.

For you, O Lord, are the glory of their strength;

by your favor it is that our might is exalted:

for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;

our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel.

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 **Acts 13:22-23**

[God] raised up David as their king; of him he testified, "I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish." From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.

The gospel is about God's Son, descended from David according to the flesh.

(cf. Rom 1:3)

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 David's people came the new Ruler and Savior, son of David and fulfillment of 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 Israel: **R/**

Grant us the faithful obedience of Joseph: **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 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 **Isaiah 7:10-14**

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

Reading 2 **Romans 1:1-7**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel **Matthew 1:18-24**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.