

## Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

**Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.**

### **FIRST READING:**

A reading from the prophet Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: 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.

**The Word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

### **SECOND READING**

A reading from St Paul's letter to the 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.

**The Word of the Lord.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-44

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.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

**Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**



## **AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
As though you have already come,  
I embrace You and Unite myself entirely to You:  
never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen

## **READINGS NEXT WEEK:**

**The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year C**

1st Reading: **1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28**

2nd Reading: **1 St John 3:1-2, 21-24**

Gospel: **Luke 2:41-52**