



Sunday, 22nd December 2024

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 45.8

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.

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

Micah 5.2-5a

'From you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel.'

Thus says the LORD:
You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80.2ac,3b,15-16,18-19. R. 4

R. Bring us back, O God;

let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved. **All repeat R.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.

Rouse up your might and come to save us. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. **R.**

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10.5-10

‘Behold, I have come to do your will.’

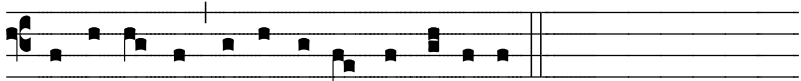
Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.”’

When he said above, ‘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, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will’. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation

O Rex gentium

R. II d



A

L- le- lu- ia, al- le- lu- ia, al- le- lu- ia.

All repeat: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

O King of the nations, and their desire,
keystone of the mighty arch, who makes all peoples one,
come, and save the creature you formed from dust.. **R.**

Gospel

Luke 1.39-45

'Why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'

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.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Is 7.14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

