

Sunday, December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prayer for the Morning

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

Glory to the Father...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.

Glory to the Father...

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)*

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

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

Our Father....

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.

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading 1

Micah 5:1-4a

Thus says the Lord:/ You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah,/ too small to be among the clans of Judah,/ from you shall come forth for me/ one who is to be ruler in Israel;/ whose origin is from of old,/ from ancient times./ Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time/ when she who is to give birth has borne,/ and the rest of his kindred shall return/ to the children of Israel./ He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock/ by the strength of the Lord,/ in the majestic name of the Lord, his God;/ and they shall remain, for now his greatness/ shall reach to the ends of the earth;/ he shall be peace.

Reading 2

Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,/ but a body you prepared for me;/ in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight./

Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,/ behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"/ First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

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!

Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat.