

Readings + Fourth Sunday of Advent, year C + December 22, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³ Therefore they shall be given up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of the ruler's kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
⁴ And the ruler shall stand and feed his flock in
the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now the ruler shall be
great
to the ends of the earth;
⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Psalmody Luke 1:46b-55, *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and
my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior,
**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your
lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
**you, the Almighty, have done great things for
me, and holy is your name.**
You have mercy on those who fear you, from
generation to generation.
**You have shown strength with your arm and
scattered the proud in their conceit,**
casting down the mighty from their thrones and
lifting up the lowly.
**You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.**

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
**the promise made to our forebears, to
Abraham and his children forever.**

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the
world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your
will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
⁸ When Christ 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), ⁹ then he
added, “See, I have come to do your will.” Christ
abolishes the first in order to establish the
second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have
been sanctified through the offering of the body
of Jesus Christ once for all.

Holy Gospel Luke 1:39-45

*Only Luke includes this story of Mary and
Elizabeth meeting as mothers.*

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with
haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard
Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your
womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that
the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as
soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the
child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed
is she who believed that there would be a
fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the
Lord.”

Today's appointed psalm: [46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for you have looked with favor on the lowliness of your servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for you, the Mighty One, have done great things for me, and holy is your name. 50 Your mercy is for those who fear you from generation to generation. 51 You have shown

strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 You have brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 you have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 You have helped your servant Israel, in remembrance of your mercy, 55 according to the promise you made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]