

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**19th December 2010**

**First Reading**

**Isa 7:10-14**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

*The virgin will conceive*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 24(23)**

**Response:** *Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

**R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
Those with clean hands and pure heart  
who desire not worthless things,

**R.**

They shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves them.  
These are the ones who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

**R.**

**Second Reading**

**Rom. 1:1-7**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from

David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him "Emmanuel,"  
which means, "God is with us."

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

**Mtt. 1:18-25**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

**R. Glory to you Lord Christ.**

*Jesus was born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, a relative of David*

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

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