

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
20th December 2009

First Reading

Mic. 5:1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

Now you are walled around with a wall; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the ruler of Israel upon the cheek. 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. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he 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 he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 79(80)

Response: *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 one you have chosen,
the one 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

Heb. 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings

and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 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)." 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, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord;
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk. 1:39-45

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

R. Glory to you Lord Christ.

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

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

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.



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