

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025**

**THE GATHERING**

Welcome	
Parish Announcements	
Prelude	<b>“JOY”</b>
<b><i>Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle</i></b>	
*Confession and Forgiveness	p. 94
*Hymn <b>“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”</b>	No. 257
*Greeting & Kyrie	p. 138
*Canticle of Praise	p. 139
*Prayer of the Day	Insert

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

First Reading-	Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80 (read responsively)	Insert
Second Reading	Romans 1:1-7
*The Gospel Acclamation	p. 142
*Holy Gospel	Matthew 1:18-25
<b>Children’s Message</b>	<b>Kathy Jo McLean</b>
<b>Noisy Sunday – Prevent Child Abuse</b>	
<b>Children’s Church</b>	

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

<b>The Message</b>	<b>Kathy Jo McLean</b>
*Hymn <b>“What Child Is This”</b>	No. 296
*The Apostles’ Creed	back of hymnal
<b>Choir Anthems</b>	
* Blessing of Offerings	
*The Prayers of Intercession	p. 143
P: Lord, in your mercy,	
<b>C: receive our prayer.</b>	
*The Lord’s Prayer - Traditional	p. 145

**SENDING**

*The Blessing	p. 146
*Sending Song <b>“Joy To The World”</b>	No. 267
*The Dismissal	p. 146



# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

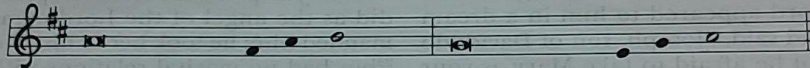
Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

## Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; tone 1



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
leading Joseph <sup>1</sup> like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned  
up-<sup>1</sup> on the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim,  
Benjamin, <sup>1</sup> and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength  
and <sup>1</sup> come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore <sup>1</sup> us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us,  
and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD <sup>1</sup> God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume  
when your <sup>1</sup> people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them  
with the <sup>1</sup> bread of tears;  
you have given them  
bowls of <sup>1</sup> tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us  
the derision <sup>1</sup> of our neighbors,  
and our enemies  
laugh <sup>1</sup> us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O <sup>1</sup> God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us,  
and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one  
at <sup>1</sup> your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong  
<sup>1</sup> for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never  
turn a-<sup>1</sup> way from you;  
give us life,  
that we may call up-<sup>1</sup> on your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD <sup>1</sup> God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us,  
and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.**

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>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,

<sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>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.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Now 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name

him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

TODAY'S READINGS December 21, 2025

Volume 57, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year A.

ITEM015007 4 of 13 Tracks 1 and 2