

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022**

THE GATHERING

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<i>Lighting of the third Advent Candle</i>	

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

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****The Congregation will stand in reverence.***



Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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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

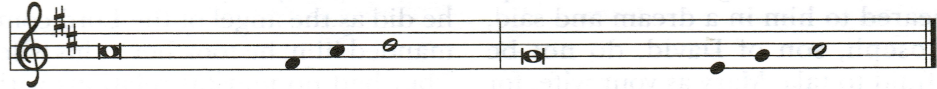
Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore 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. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For 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 ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned
up- ¹ on the cherubim.

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

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

⁴O LORD ¹ God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume
when your ¹ people pray?

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

⁶You have made us
the derision ¹ of our neighbors,
and our enemies
laugh ¹ us to scorn.

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

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

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

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

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To 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 with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son,

and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]; John 1:1-14.

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