

12 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Micah 5.2-5a

From you, O Bethlehem, will come the ruler of Israel.

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The Lord says to his people:

2 “You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judea,
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 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.

4 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.

5 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.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80.1ab+2, 14-15, 17-18 (R.3)

R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
2 Stir up your might,
and come to save us. **R.**

14 Turn again, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
have regard for this vine,
15 the stock that your right hand has planted. **R.**

17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right,
the one whom you have made strong for yourself.

18 Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name. **R.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10.5-10
I come to do your will.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- 5 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,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book,
‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God.’”
8 When Christ said,
“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.”
He 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.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 1.38

*This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.*

*I am the servant of the Lord:
let it be done to me according to your word.*

GOSPEL

Luke 1.39-45

*Why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?*

✠ A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

39 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 fulfilment
of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord.