

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 7:10-17

Again 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 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. The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah -- the king of Assyria."

Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the LORD'S and all that is in it, * the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas * and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 "Who can ascend the hill of the LORD? " * and who can stand in his holy place?"
- 4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, * who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the LORD * and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, * of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting
doors; * and the King of glory
shall come in.

8 "Who is this King of glory?" *
"The LORD, strong and
mighty, the LORD, mighty
in battle."

SECOND READING:

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 scrip-
tures, 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

GOSPEL:

Now the birth of Jesus the
Messiah took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had
been engaged to Joseph, but
before they had 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

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting
doors; * and the King of
glory shall come in.

10 "Who is he, this King of
glory?" "The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory."

Romans 1:1-7

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.

Matthew 1:18-25

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 fulfill 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.

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