

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:

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

Isaiah 7:10-17

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."
- 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."

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 scriptures, 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

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.

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

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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