

## 25 March – Annunciation

SOLEMNITY; white

*This feast originated in the East during the sixth century and gained universal observance in the West during the eighth century. It is a feast of the Lord, commemorating the announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Word made flesh, Mary's acceptance of God's will, and the conception of Christ nine months before Christmas. Its occurrence close to Easter links the incarnation with the whole mystery of human redemption in Christ.*

### *First Reading † Isaiah 7:10-14.8:10*

#### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said,

'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.'

'No,' Ahaz answered,

'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Emmanuel.

[A name which means 'God-is-with-us'.]

The word of the Lord.

### *Responsorial † Psalm 39:7-11*

#### ***Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.***

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.

Instead, here am I.

#### ***Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.***

In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart.

#### ***Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.***

Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord.

***Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.***

I have not hidden your justice in my heart  
but declared your faithful help.  
I have not hidden your love and your truth  
from the great assembly.

***Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.***

***Second Reading † Hebrews 10:4-10***

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

*In the scroll of the book it was written of me that I should obey your will, O God.*

Bulls' blood and goats' blood are useless for taking away sins, and that is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then you said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.

He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

***Gospel Acclamation † John 1:14***

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
The word of God became flesh and dwelt among us;  
and we saw his glory.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

***Gospel † Luke 1:26-38***

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

*You are to conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her,

'Rejoice, so highly favoured!  
The Lord is with you.'

She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her,

‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour.

Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son,  
and you must name him Jesus.

‘He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High.

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob  
for ever  
and his reign will have no end.’

Mary said to the angel,

‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’

‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered

‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.

And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman  
Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now  
in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’

‘I am the handmaid of the Lord.’ said Mary

‘let what you have said be done to me.’

And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.