

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year C

Season of Advent

First Reading † Micah 5:1- 4a

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
from you will come for me a future ruler of Israel
whose origin is from the distant past,
from the days of old.

Hence he will abandon them
only until she who is in labour gives birth,
and then those who survive of his race
will be reunited to the Israelites.

He will take his stand and he will shepherd them
in the power of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of his God,
and they will be secure,
for henceforth his greatness will extend
to the most distant parts of the land.

He himself will be peace!

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

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

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine out.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.

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

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

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

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have made strong for yourself.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

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

Second Reading † Hebrews 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You wanted no sacrifice or cereal offering,
but you prepared for me a body.
You took no pleasure in burnt offerings or sacrifices for sin;
then said, 'Here am, am coming,'
in the scroll of the book it is written of me,
to do your will, O God.*

He says first: *You wanted no sacrifices, cereal offerings, burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them* – the offerings according to the Law – and then he says: *Here am! am coming to do your will.*

He is abolishing the first sort to establish the second. And by this *will* we have been made holy through the *offering* of the *body* of Jesus Christ made once and for all.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Luke 1:39-44

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out at that time and went with haste into the hill country to a town in Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

She gave a loud cry and said,

'Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
Why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
Look, as soon as your greeting reached my ears,
the child in my womb leapt for joy.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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