

Readings at Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet, Isaiah

In those days: *The Lord spoke to Ahaz: '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.'

And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 24(23). 1-2, 3-4B, 5-6; R. CF. VV 7C, 10B

R. Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fulness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R.**

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 1.1-7

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans
Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle,
set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised
beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,
concerning his Son, who was descended from David
according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son
of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by
his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom we have received grace and apostleship
to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his
name among all the nations, including you who are
called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God
and called to be saints: *Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ISAIAH 7.10-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel -
which means, God with us. **R.**

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1.18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,
before they came together she was found to be with
child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph,
being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame,
resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered
these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to
him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to
take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is
from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call
his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'
All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by
the prophet:

*'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel'*

- which means, God with us. When Joseph woke
from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded
him: he took his wife.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

*The numbers of this evening's Entrance and Offertory
hymns are displayed on the boards on the pillars*

This evening's incense is Frankincense and Myrrh