

# 19 December 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

---

## The Collect

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## First Reading

*Micah 5.2-5a*

The LORD says to his people:  
But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

## Second Reading

*Hebrews 10.5-10*

When Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O  
God"  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he  
said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure  
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-  
offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he  
added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the  
first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's  
will that we have been sanctified through the offering of  
the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## Gospel

*Luke 1.39-45(46-55)*

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the  
hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah  
and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's  
greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was  
filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,  
'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of  
your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the  
mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard  
the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt  
for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would  
be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour  
on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations  
will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud  
in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

## Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.