

**Today's Readings**  
**18<sup>th</sup> December 2022**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of**  
**Advent**



**THE COLLECT**

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**FIRST READING:**

**Isaiah 7.10-16**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> 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 Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> 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.

**SECOND READING:**

**Romans 1.1-7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> 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.

**THE GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 1.18-25**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N. All Glory to you, O Lord.*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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 her is from the

Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**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.

**PSALM**

**Psalms 80.1-3 & 17-19**

<sup>1</sup> Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might; come and save us.

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

<sup>17</sup> Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself.

<sup>18</sup> Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.