

Readings: 4th Sunday of Advent (A) Emmanuel: God With Us

First Reading Introduction: His Name: God-With-Us

In a national emergency, God gives a sign that he will save his people: a young woman will give birth to a son whose name means: "God is with us." The birth of a child is made the sign of hope.

First Reading: Is 7:10-14

Once again Yahweh addressed Ahaz, "Ask for a sign from Yahweh your God, let it come either from the deepest depths or from the heights of heaven."

But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask, I will not put Yahweh to the test."

Then Isaiah said, "Now listen, descendants of David. Have you not been satisfied trying the patience of people, that you also try the patience of my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:

The Virgin is with child and bears a son and calls his name Immanuel."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

R (7c and 10b) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

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

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

R (7c and 10b) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R (7c and 10b) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading Introduction: Jesus, Son of God and Descendant of David

Paul professes his faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Savior announced by the prophets; he is man, for he is a descendant of David; he is God's Son and our risen Lord, to whom we belong.

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, an apostle called and set apart for God's Good News, the very promises he foretold through his prophets in the sacred Scriptures, regarding his Son, who was born in the flesh a descendant of David, and has been recognized as the Son of God endowed with Power, upon rising from the dead through the Holy Spirit.

Through him, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and for the sake of his Name, we received grace and mission in all the nations, for them to accept the faith.

All of you, the elected of Christ, are part of them, you, the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy: May God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, give you grace and peace.

Gospel Introduction: Jesus Is Our God-with-us

Matthew presents the son to be born of Mary as the promised "God-with-us," for he is David's son through Joseph, his legal foster-father, and born to the Virgin Mother Mary by the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading: Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her.

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him 'Jesus' for he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel* which means: God-with-us. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do and he took his wife to his home. So she gave birth to a son

and he had not had marital relations with her. Joseph gave him the name of Jesus.

