

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

The Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

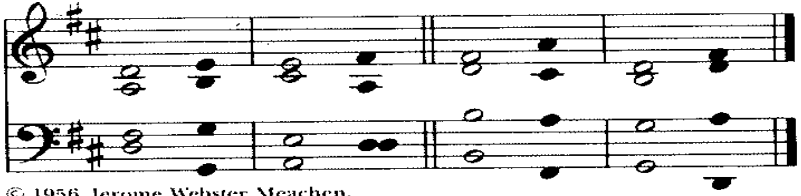
A Reading from Isaiah 7:10-17

Again 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 he 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 Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24



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The Psalm will be chanted.

- 1 The earth is the LORD's and all that is **in it**, *
the compass of the world and those who dwell there-**in**.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the **seas** *
and established it upon the rivers of the **deep**.
- 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the **LORD**? *
Or who shall stand in his holy **place**?
- 4 He who has clean hands and a pure **heart**, *
and who has not set his mind upon vanity, nor sworn to deceive
his **neighbor**.
- 5 He shall receive blessing from the **LORD** *
and righteousness from the God of his sal-**vation**.
- 6 This is the generation of those who **seek him**, *
even of those who seek your face, O God of **Jacob**.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O you gates, and be lifted up, you everlasting
doors; *
and the King of glory shall come **in**.
- 8 “Who is the King of **glory**?” *
“It is the LORD, strong and mighty, even the LORD, mighty in
battle.”
- 9 Lift up your heads, O you gates, and be lifted up, you everlasting
doors; *
and the King of glory shall come **in**.
- 10 “Who is the King of **glory**?” *
“The LORD of hosts, he is the King of **glory**.”

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**, and to the Holy **Spirit**:
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever **shall be**, world without
end. **A-men**.

A Reading from Romans 1:1-7

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 1:18-25

All standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Holy Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 divorce her 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 fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

After the Gospel is Proclaimed

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Proper Preface *Advent*

For the Celebrant to read after the Sursum Cordia.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.