

## ADVENT 4

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above,  
you heavens, and let the  
clouds rain down the Just  
One; let the earth be opened  
and bring forth a Saviour.

### COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you,  
O Lord, your grace into our  
hearts, that we, to whom the  
Incarnation of Christ your  
Son was made known by the  
message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and  
Cross be brought to the  
glory of his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with  
you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, One God, for ever  
and ever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

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.'

### PSALM

*Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6.  
R cf. 6*

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

The Lord's is the earth and  
its fullness, 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**

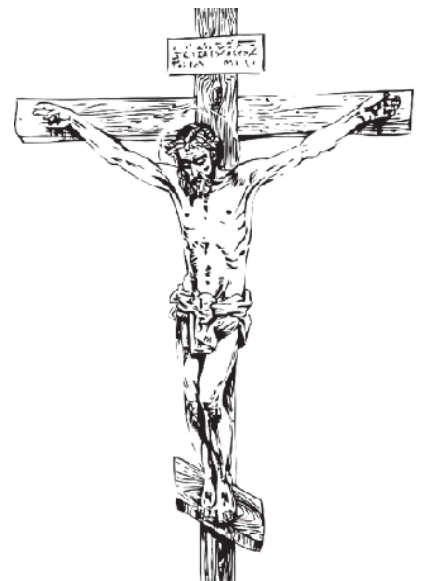
### SECOND READING

*Romans 1:1-7*

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.



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### **Alleluia, alleluia...**

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

## 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

