

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2018

## First Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

### Prophecy of Micah

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>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;

<sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm - Luke 1:46b–55**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

## **Second Reading**

Hebrews 10:5–10

### **The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews**

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

7 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).”

8 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), 9 then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10 And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel**

**Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Sentence**

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Luke 1.45

### **Prayer of the day**

Gracious God,  
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,  
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose Day draws near,  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Supplementary Readings**

Isaiah 66.18-23

Psalm 18.27-38

Revelation 20.11-21.5

## Prayer Response

God of Love, God of glory,  
be known among us.



## Mary Visits Elizabeth

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-40 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:42-45 (NLT)

*A number of words have been removed from the text and placed in a word bank. Use the words from the word bank to fill in the blanks in the text. Write the words in the blanks provided.*

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to \_\_\_\_\_, "God has blessed \_\_\_\_\_ you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Luke 1:42-45 (NLT)

child  
greeting

Elizabeth  
visit

joy  
believed

Mary  
blessed

jumped  
honored