Sunday, December 20 2026
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prayer for the Morning

God is faithful: Christ will come!
Let us rejoice and be glad!
Glory to the Father…Amen. Alleluia

Hymn — Meter: SM

Praise we the Lord this day,
This day so long foretold,
Whose promise shone with cheering ray
On waiting saints of old.
The Prophet gave the sign
For faithful folk to read:
A virgin, born of David's line,
Shall bear the promised seed.
Ask not how this should be,
But worship and adore
Like her whom God's own majesty
Came down to shadow o'er.
She meekly bowed her head
To hear the gracious word,
Mary, the pure and lowly maid,
The favored of the Lord.

Canticle — Psalm 119:73-80

He shall be a son to me, and I will be a father to him, and I will establish the throne of his kingship over Israel forever. *(1 Chr 22:10b)*

In the annunciation made by the angel to the Virgin Mary, God's promise of salvation is kept. The hope of God's people is fulfilled, as our Advent hope will be fulfilled when Christ comes in his glory.

It was your hands that made me and shaped me:
help me to learn your commands.
Your faithful will see me and rejoice
for I trust in your word.
Lord, I know that your decrees are right,
that you afflicted me justly.
Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come and I shall live
for your law is my delight.
Shame the proud who harm me with lies
while I ponder your precepts.
Let your faithful turn to me,
those who know your will.
Let my heart be blameless in obeying
lest I be ashamed. Glory to the Father

Word of God — Isaiah 45:19, 21

I have not spoken from hiding/ nor from some dark place of the earth,/ And I have not said to the descendants of Jacob,/ "Look for me in an empty waste."/ I, the Lord, promise justice,/ I foretell what is right.
Come here and declare/ in counsel together:/ Who announced this from the beginning/ and foretold it from of old?/ Was it not I, the Lord,/ besides whom there is no other God?/ There is no just and saving God but me.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it. **(1 Thes 5:24)**

Canticle of Zechariah

I will bring upon them all the good I promise them. *(Jer 32:42b)*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father…

Intercessions

With trust in God's faithfulness, we pray:
R/Let your love come and we shall live.
You have promised us a Savior: R/
You have sent your only Son among us as our Redeemer: R/
You are our life: R/ Personal intentions

Our Father....

Faithful God, your promise of salvation is fulfilled in the Birth of Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful to the promises we have made to you in baptism, that we may rejoice at his return in glory. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

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Reading 1 — 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the Lord had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you." But that night the Lord spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Should you build me a house to dwell in?

"'It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.'"

Reading 2 — Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel — Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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