

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Prayer for the Morning**

*God will make his throne endure as the heavens:  
come, let us adore.*

**Glory to the Father.... Amen. Alleluia!**

**Hymn**

**Meter: CM**

O Holy Joseph, you restored  
King David's house and line,  
O guardian of King David's Lord:  
The Son of God divine.  
When years at last their course had run,  
And Mary's "yes" was said,  
God chose you for his only Son,  
And by an angel led.

**Psalm**

**89:4-7, 16-19**

*Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,/ when I  
will raise up a righteous shoot to David. (Jer 23:5)  
God promised to build an everlasting house for  
David. In sleep, Joseph, of the house of David, receives  
word of the promise's astonishing fulfillment: his  
intended wife has not been unfaithful but has been the  
faithful instrument in God's plan to save the world  
through the gift of the Son she has conceived by the  
Holy Spirit.*

"With my chosen one, I have made a covenant;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages."  
The heavens proclaim your wonders, O Lord;  
the assembly of your holy ones proclaims your  
truth.  
For who in the skies can compare with the Lord  
or who is like the Lord among the sons of God?  
Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their bliss.  
For you, O Lord, are the glory of their strength;  
by your favor it is that our might is exalted:  
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;  
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel.  
**Glory to the Father.**

**Word of God**

**Acts 13:22-23**

[God] raised up David as their king; of him he  
testified, "I have found David, son of Jesse, a man  
after my own heart; he will carry out my every  
wish."

From this man's descendants God, according to  
his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.  
The gospel is about God's Son, descended from  
David according to the flesh. (cf. Rom 1:3)

**Canticle of Zechariah**

*Hosanna to the Son of David;/ blessed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord;/ hosanna in the  
highest. (Mt 21:9)*

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**

From David's people came the new Ruler and  
Savior, son of David and fulfillment of the promise  
made to David's house. To him we pray:

**R/Come and reward your people's hope!**

Grant us the faithful patience of the patriarchs: **R/**

Grant us the faithful obedience of Joseph: **R/**

Grant us the faithful love of Mary: **R/**

**Personal intentions**

**Our Father....**

*Lord Jesus Christ, you are Son of God and Son of  
Mary. Come and save your people, for you live and  
reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen*

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**Reading 1** **Isaiah 7:10-14**

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

**Reading 2** **Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel**

**Matthew 1:18-24**

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,

which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

**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!

*Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat.*