

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Cycle C

## ENTRANCE HYMN

1. O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph,  
and sadness flee away.

*Sweet Saviour haste  
come, come to earth:  
dispel the night, and show thy face,  
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come, divine Messiah!  
The world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph,  
and sadness flee away.*



2. O come in peace and meekness,  
For lowly will your cradle be:  
Though clothed in human weakness  
We shall your God-head see.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Micah 5:1-4  
*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over  
Israel.*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.  
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth  
gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come  
back  
to the sons of Israel.  
He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will  
extend his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R] v. 4

- R. God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be  
saved.**
1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10  
*Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:  
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices  
for sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the  
book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what  
the Law lays down as the things to be offered,  
that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the  
holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you  
took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here  
I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is  
abolishing the first sort to replace it with the  
second. And this will was for us to be made holy  
by the offering of his body made once and for all  
by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
1:39-44

*Why should I be honoured with a visit from the  
mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to  
a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into  
Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now  
as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the  
child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled  
with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said,  
'Of all women you are the most blessed, and  
blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I  
be honoured with a visit from the mother of my  
Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my

