



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C (P 778)- 23/12/2018

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,

FIRST READING 5:1-4 Page 778

A reading from the prophet Micah.

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

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.



SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. 10:5-10 page 779

I am coming to do your will.

★ That 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 holocaust 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

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Page 780 1:39-44

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Why should it happen that I am 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 ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled." ★

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.** ◆



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 so the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.

◆ **Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.** ◆

