

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B



How many things can you see in church that tell you Christmas is very nearly here?



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.

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches the
altar.

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection...

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



FIRST READING 2 SAMUEL 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

God loves his people very much. Since the very beginning, they have had a covenant relationship; God will be with them, and they will live as God asks. Here, through the prophet Nathan, God makes a covenant with David. God chose David

and has always been with him, from shepherd boy to powerful king. Now God promises that all David's descendants will enjoy this special relationship. God does not need a house; God will live in the House, the family, of David.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

God establishes a very special relationship with David and all his family forever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 88

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



SECOND READING ROMANS 16:25-27

Jesus is here! People have been waiting for thousands for years – and now the best present anyone could ever receive is here with us! God has chosen to become like us, born like every other human being.

Jesus brings us the good news of God's love and will help us live as God asks, following God's law. All of God's promises have pointed to Jesus. Our faith in Jesus is something worth celebrating and we want to praise and worship God!

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

Jesus, the Son of God, is finally here!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



DO YOU KNOW?

Although we will celebrate **Jesus' birth** on **25 December**, in some countries Christmas is celebrated on 6 January. This is because some Eastern Orthodox churches use a different calendar, the Julian calendar, for liturgy, while in the west we use the **Gregorian calendar**. In some non-Christian countries, Christmas is not a holiday at all.



THINK

This week we celebrate God's **gift of Jesus**, who came to show us how **much we are loved**. What could we give the **people we love**, to show them just how much we care? Can you think of something that does not cost money, but might **cost time and effort**, that you can give this week?



GOSPEL LUKE 1:26-38

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

So much news in such a short time! The angel Gabriel brings a very special message to Mary: God is with her and she is going to have a baby, called Jesus, who will rule over the people and his kingdom will have no end. Mary's son will fulfil God's promise

to David in our first reading. God's chosen saviour will be born into the House of King David. Mary's cousin Elizabeth is also pregnant – despite thinking she was too old to have a baby. Nothing is impossible for God. In this moment, Mary gives her whole life to God.

◀ **STAND to LISTEN** to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I am thinking about anyone who might want to have a family but is unable to have children. Help them to know they are loved and to find meaning in life. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time this week when were ungrateful and then think about something you were happy and thankful about. Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for coming to be with me. Thank you for choosing to share my life. Help me to share my knowledge of your love with others. Amen.



PRAY

"I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord."

Make your prayer a song! Sing your favourite hymn - or practise some carols! Praise God for loving us so much that he was born as a human baby!



DO

Make a special effort and ask what you can do to help - even when you just want to do nothing!



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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FSC logo



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

