

SCRIPTURE READINGS CYCLE A: DECEMBER 14-22, 2025

Sunday, Dec. 14	<u>Sunday Readings</u> Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11
Monday, Dec. 15	Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday, Dec. 16	Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Genesis 49:1-2, 8-10 Matthew 1:1-17
Thursday, Dec. 18	Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:18-25
Friday, Dec. 19	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Luke 1:5-25
Saturday, Dec. 20	<u>Sunday Readings</u> Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24
Sunday, Dec. 21	<u>Sunday Readings</u> Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24
Monday, Dec. 22	1 Samuel 1:24-28 Luke 1:46-56

Sunday, Dec. 14 (Note: Gloria and Creed)

Sunday, December 14: Third Sunday of Advent

Reading 1 Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.

They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak,
say to those whose hearts are frightened:

Be strong, fear not! Here is your God,

He comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy, they will meet with joy and gladness
sorrow and mourning will flee.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Pagbasa sa aklat ni propeta Isaias 35:1-6a,10

Darating ang Diyos upang iligtas tayo
Magsaya ang ilang at ang lupang tigang, magalak at mamulaklak ang ilang.
Tulad ng narciso mamulaklak at magalak nang magalak na may awitan,
Sapagkat ibinigay sa kanya ang kaluwalhatian ng Libano, ang
Karilagan ng Carmel at ng Saron. Makikita nila ang kaluwalhatian ng
Panginoon at ang karilagan ng ating Dios.
Palakasin ninyo ang mahihinang kamay at patatagin ang nangangatog na mga
tuhod. Sabihin sa mahihinang puso: Magpakalakas kayo at huwag matakot,
natito ang inyong Dios na maghihiganti, ang kagantihan ng Dios; siya ay
darating at tutubusin kayo.
Kung magkagayon ay madidilat ang mga mata ng mga bulag,
mabubuksan ang mga tainga ng mga bingi. Lulukso ang pilay na gaya
usa, at masayang sisigaw ang dila ng pipi.
Tanging ang mga tinubos lamang ang maglalakad doon. Magbabalik
ang mga iniligtas ng Panginoon, magsisiparoon silang nag-aawitan sa Sion,
at puputugan sila ng kaluwalhatianang walang hanggan. Magagalak at
magsasaya, at mapaparam ang lungkot at luha.
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reading 2 James 5:7-10: A reading from the letter of St. James:

Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,
being patient with it
until it receives the early and the late rains.
You too must be patient.
Make your hearts firm,
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another,
that you may not be judged.
Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.
Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters,
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Pagbasa sa sulat ni Santiago Apostol 5-7-10

Magtiis sana kayo, mga kapatid, hanggang sa pagdating
ng Panginoon. Tingnan ninyo, ang magsasaka ay matiyagang
naghihintay sa mahalagang bunga ng lupa hanggang sa una
at huling ulan. Kayo rin ay dapat magtiis, palakasin ang
inyong loob, sapagkat nalalapit na ang pagdating ng panginoon.
Huwag kayong maghinanakitan, mga kapatid, at nang di kayo
mahatulan. Nariryan na a pintuan ang hukom. Mga kapatid,
tularan ninyo sa pagbabata at pagtitiis ang mga propeta na
nagsalita sa pangalan ng Panginoon.
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11: A reading from the gospel of Matthew:

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,
“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”
Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.
As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,
“What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?
Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing?
Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.
Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
He will prepare your way before you.
Amen, I say to you,
Among those born of women
There has been none greater than John the Baptist;
Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”
The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday, December 15

Reading 1 Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a: A reading from the book of Numbers:

When Balaam raised his eyes and saw Israel encamped, tribe by tribe, the spirit of God came upon him,
and he gave voice to his oracle:
The utterance of Balaam, son of Beor, the utterance of the man whose eye is true,
The utterance of one who hears what God says, and knows what the Most High knows,
Of one who sees what the Almighty sees, enraptured, and with eyes unveiled:
How goodly are your tents, O Jacob; your encampments, O Israel!
They are like gardens beside a stream, like the cedars planted by the Lord.
His wells shall yield free-flowing waters; he shall have the sea within reach;
His king shall rise higher, and his royalty shall be exalted.
Then Balaam gave voice to his oracle:
The utterance of Balaam, son of Beor, the utterance of the man whose eye is true,
The utterance of one who hears what God says, and knows what the Most High knows,
Of one who sees what the Almighty sees, enraptured and with eyes unveiled.
I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near:
A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel.
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Pagbasa sa aklat ng mga Bilang 24:2-7. 15-17a

Noong mga araw na iyon, tumingin si Balam at nakita ang Israel na nakahanay ang kanyang mga kubolb ng lipilipi; sumakanya ang diwa ng Dios, at binigkas ang kanyang tula:

Hula ni Balam, anak ni Beor, hula ng lalaking nakapikit ang mga mata, hula ng nakikinig sa mga wika ng Dios, at nakaaalam sa nalalaman ng kataas-taasan, ng nakakakita ng nakikita ng makapangyarihan, tumanggap siya ng sagot sa Dios at namumulat ang kanyang mga mata.

Anong ganda ng iyong mga kubol, O Jacob; ang iyong mga tirahan, O Israel! Naglalawakang gaya ng mga lambak, gaya ng mga halamanang nasa tabi ng ilog, gaya ng mga aloe na tanim ng Panginoon, gaya ng mga sedrong nasa tabi ng mga tubig!

Ang tubig umaapaw sa kanyang mga pang-igib, ang kanyang binhi ay sagana sa tubig. Ang kanyang hari ay dakila pa kay Agag, at ang kanyang pagkahari ay itatampok.

Bumigkas uli si Batam ng luha:

Hula ni Balam, anak ni Beor; hula ng taong nakapikit ang mga mata.

Hula ng nakaririnig ng mga wika ng Dios, at nakaaalam ng

Katas-taasan, ng nakakakita ng nakikita ng makapangyarihan,

Tumatanggap siya ng sagot ng Dios at namumulat ang kanyang mga mata.

Nakikita ko siya ngunit hindi ngayon; natatanaw ko siya ngunit hindi sa malapit:

May labas na bituin kay Jacob, at sa Israel ay may babangong isang tungkod na dudurog sa mga noo ni Moab at sa mga bungo ng lahat ng mga anak ni Set.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 21:23-27: A reading from the gospel of Matthew:

When Jesus had come into the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?”

Jesus said to them in reply, “I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me, then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things. Where was John’s baptism from? Was it of heavenly or of human origin?”

They discussed this among themselves and said, “If we say ‘Of heavenly origin,’ he will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we fear the crowd, for they all regard John as a prophet.” So they said to Jesus in reply, “We do not know.” Jesus said to them, “Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE: The church’s Evening Prayer, also known as Vespers, always includes the prayer of Mary known as the *Magnificat*. Each day, the *Magnificat* is preceded by a short verse or “antiphon” that links the prayer to the feast or season of the year. During the last seven days of Advent (December 17-23), the antiphons before the *Magnificat* are very special. Each begins with the exclamation “O” and ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes increasingly urgent. These “O Antiphons” were apparently composed in the seventh or eighth century when monks put together texts from the Old Testament, particularly from the prophet Isaiah, which looked forward to the coming of our salvation. Each of the O Antiphons highlights a different title for the Messiah: Dec. 17 *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), Dec. 18 *O Adonai* (O Lord), Dec. 19 *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), Dec. 20 *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), Dec. 21 *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), Dec. 22 *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and Dec. 23 *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to a prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah.

Tuesday, December 16

Reading 1. Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13: A reading from the book of Zephaniah:

Thus says the LORD: Woe to the city, rebellious and polluted, to the tyrannical city!
She hears no voice, accepts no correction;
In the LORD she has not trusted, to her God she has not drawn near.

For then I will change and purify the lips of the peoples,
That they all may call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one accord;
From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia and as far as the recesses of the North, they shall bring me offerings.

On that day, You need not be ashamed of all your deeds, your rebellious actions against me;
For then will I remove from your midst the proud braggarts,
And you shall no longer exalt yourself on my holy mountain.
But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly,
Who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of Israel.
They shall do no wrong and speak no lies;
Nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue;
They shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Pagbasa sa aklat ng Zefanias 3:1-2, 9-13

Mapapahamak ang mapaghimagsik na lunsod ng Jerusalem,
punung-puno ng mga makasalanang at ng mga pinunong mapang-api
Hindi ito sumusunod kay Yahwe at ayaw tumanggap ng kanyang pagtutuwid.
Wala itong tiwala sa kanya at ayaw nitong lumapit sa Diyos upang humingi ng tulong.
“Oo, sa panahong iyon ay babaguhin ko ang pananalita ng mga tao,
at bibigyan ko sila ng dilang malinis,
upang sa kay Yahweh lamang manalangin at sumamba at buong pagkakaisang maglingkod sa kanya.
Mula sa kabilang panig ng mga ilog ng Etiopia, ang aking nangalat na bayan, ay sasamba sa akin magdadala
ng kanilang handog.
“Sa araw na iyon ay hindi na kayo mapapahiya sa ginawa ninyong paghihimagsik sa akin, sapagkat aalisin
ko ang mga mapagmataas, at hindi na kayo maghihimagsik sa aking banal na bundok.
Iiwan ko roon ang mga taong mapagpakumbaba; lalapit sila sa akin upang magpatulong.
Hindi na gagawa ng kasamaan ang mga nakaligtas sa Israel; hindi na sila magsisinungaling ni mandaraya
man.
Uunlad ang kanilang buhay at magiging panatag; wala na silang katatakutan.”
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32: A reading from the gospel of Matthew:

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: “What is your opinion?
A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’
The son said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterwards he changed his mind and went.
The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go.
Which of the two did his father’s will?” They answered, “The first.” Jesus said to them,
“Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you.
When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him;
but tax collectors and prostitutes did.
Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”
The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Wednesday, December 17 *O Sapientia* (Is. 11:2-3; 28:29): “O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth.”

Reading 1 Genesis 49:1-2, 8-10: A reading from the book of Genesis:

Jacob called his sons and said to them, “Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob, listen to Israel, your father. “You, Judah, shall your brothers praise—your hand on the neck of your enemies; the sons of your father shall bow down to you. Judah, like a lion’s whelp, you have grown up on prey, my son. He crouches like a lion recumbent, the king of beasts—who would dare rouse him? The scepter shall never depart from Judah, or the mace from between his legs, while tribute is brought to him, and he receives the people’s homage.”
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Pagbasa sa aklat ng Genesis 49:1-2,8-10

Noong mga araw na iyon, tinawag ni Jacob ang kanyang mga anak at sinabi:
Magsama-sama kayo at ipahahayag ko sa inyo kung ano ang mangyayari sa inyo sa mga araw na darating. Juda, ikaw ay pupurihin ng iyong mga kapatid; ilalagay mo ang iyong kamay sa leeg ng iyong mga kaaway; yuyuko sa iyo ang mga anak na lalaki ng iyong ama.
Si Juda ay isang batang leon; ikaw ay nakakyat, anak ko, sa isang huli. Nakadapa at nakahigang tulad ng leon: tulad ng isang babaeng leon, at sino ang makapagpapatindig sa kanya?
Ang setro ay hindi maaalis kay Juda, ni ang tungkod sa pagitan ng kanyang mga paa.
Hanggang di dumating ang mayari noon. Tatalima sa kanya ang mga bayan.
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 1:1-17: A reading from the gospel of Matthew:

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.
Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar.
Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab became the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.
David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah,
Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah.
Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah.
Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile.
After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,
Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,
Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok became the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar became the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah.
Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations;
from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile
to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Thursday, December 18 *O Adonai* (Is. 11:4-5; 33:22): “O Adonai and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.”

Reading 1 Jeremiah 23:5-8: A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah:

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; As king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: “The Lord our justice.”

Therefore, the days will come, says the Lord, when they shall no longer say, “As the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt”; but rather, “As the Lord lives, who brought the descendants of the house of Israel up from the land of the north”—and from all the lands to which I banished them; they shall again live on their own land.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Pagbasa sa aklat ni propeta Jeremias 23:5-8

Darating ang mga araw, wika ng Paginoon, na magpapalitaw ako kay David ng isang banal na usbong, na tunay na maghahari nang may karunungan at maggaawad ng katarugan at katwiran sa lupain. Sa kanyang kapanahuna ay maliligtas ang Juda at panatag na maninirahan ang Israel,, at ito ang pangalang itatawag sa kanya: “Panginoon ang nagpapabanal sa atin.”

Gayon din naman darating ang mga araw, wika ng Panginoon, na hindi na sasabihin: “Nabubuhay ang Panginoon, na nagpaahon sa mga anak ng Israel buhat sa lupaing Egipto!”; kundi: “Nabubuhay ang Panginoon, na naglabas at umakay sa lahi ni Israel buhat sa lupa sa hilaga at sa lahat ng lupaing pinagtapunan sa kanila, upang manirahan sila sa kanilang sariling lupa.”

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel Matthew 1:18-25: A reading from the gospel of Matthew:

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 be with child 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. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Friday, December 19 *O Radix Jesse* (Is. 11:1, 10): "O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay."

Reading 1 Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a: A reading from the book of Judges:

There was a certain man from Zorah, of the clan of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren and had borne no children. An angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Though you are barren and have had no children, yet you will conceive and bear a son. Now, then, be careful to take no wine or strong drink and to eat nothing unclean. As for the son you will conceive and bear, no razor shall touch his head, for this boy is to be consecrated to God from the womb. It is he who will begin the deliverance of Israel from the power of the Philistines."

The woman went and told her husband, "A man of God came to me; he had the appearance of an angel of God, terrible indeed. I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name. But he said to me, 'You will be with child and will bear a son. So take neither wine nor strong drink, and eat nothing unclean. For the boy shall be consecrated to God from the womb, until the day of his death.'"

The woman bore a son and named him Samson. The boy grew up and the Lord blessed him. The spirit of the Lord stirred him.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PAGBASA *Hukom* 13:2-7. 24-25

Pagbasa sa aklat ng mga Hukom

Noong mga araw na iyon, may isang taga-Sora, sa angkan ni Dan, na ang pangalan ay Manue. Ang kanyang asawa ay baog at hindi nagkakaanak. Ang anghel ng Panginoon ay napakita sa babaeng iyan at sinabi sa kanya, "Kahit na baog ka at hindi ka nagkakaanak, ikaw ay maglilihi at magkakaanak ng isang lalaki. Ngunit magingat ka sa pag-inom ng alak o ng inuming nakalalasing at huwag kang kakain ng ano mang di-malinis.

Tungkol sa anak na lalaki na iyong ipaglilihi at ipanganganak walang pang-ahit na daraan sa kanyang ulo, dahil sa ang bata ay magiging nasareong nakatalaga sa Dios mula pa sa sinapupunan ng kanyang ina. Siya ang magliligtas sa Israel sa mga kamay ng mga Filisteo.

Yumaon ang babae upang sabihin sa kanyang asawa, "Ang isang taong mahal sa Dios ay dumating sa akin; ang kanyang anyo ay tulad ng sa isang anghel ng Dios, totoong nakatatapot. Hindi ko itinanong sa kanya kung saan siya galing, ni hindi niya sinabi sa akin ang kanyang pangalan.

Ngunit sinabi niya sa akin, 'Ikaw ay maglilihi at manganganak ng isang lalaki. Dahil diyan ay huwag kang iinom ng alak o ng inuming nakalalasing, at huwag kang kakain ng ano mang di malinis. Sapagkat ang bata ay itatalaga sa Dios mula pa sa sinapupunan ng kanyang ina hanggang sa araw ng kanyang pagkamatay.'

" Ang babae ay nanganak ng isang lalaki at pinanganlan niyang Samson.

Lumaki ang bata at siya ay pinagpala ng Panginoon. Nagsimulang mapasa kanya ang diwa ng Panginoon. Sa Parang ng Dan, sa pagitan ng Sora at Estaol.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Luke 1:5-25: A reading from the gospel of Luke:

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the

hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord.”

Then Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”

And the angel said to him in reply, “I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.”

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute. Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home.

After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, “So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others.”

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday, December 20: *O Clavis David* (Is. 9:6; 22:22): “O key of David and scepter of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come to lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.”

Reading 1 Isaiah 7:10-14: **A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:**

“The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying: ‘Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!’ But Ahaz answered, ‘I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!’ Then he said, ‘Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary men, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel [because “God is with us”].’”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PAGBASA Isaías 7:10-14

Noong mga araw na iyon, nagsalita ang Panginoon kay Acáz na ang sabi: "Humingi ka ng tanda sa Panginoon mong Dios maging ito ay kasinlalim ng daigdig sa ibaba o kasintaas man ng langit.

Ngunit sumagot si Acáz, "Hindi ako hihingi, at di ko tutuksuhin ang Panginoon." Nang magkagayon ay sinabi ni Isaías, "Kaya't makinig kayo, sambahayan ni David. Hindi pa ba sapat sa inyo ang yamutin ang mga tao, at Niyayamot pa ninyo ang aking Dios? Kaya nga ang Panginoon na rin ang magbibigay sa inyo ng isang tanda. Tandaan ninyo, maglilihian ang birhen at manganganak ng lalaki na tatawaging Emanuel."

The word of the Lord. Praise be to God.

Gospel Luke 1:26-38: **A reading from the gospel of Luke:**

In the sixth month, 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.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday-Sunday, December 20-21: Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec 21 *O Oriens* (Is. 9:1): "O Rising Sun, you are the splendor of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

Dec 22 *O Rex Gentium* (Is. 2:4; 9:5): "O King whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you made from clay."

Reading 1 Isaiah 7:10-14: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

"The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying: 'Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky!' But Ahaz answered, 'I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!' Then he said, 'Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary men, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel [because "God is with us"].'"

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PAGBASA Isaías 7:10-14

Noong mga araw na iyon, nagsalita ang Panginoon kay Acáz na ang sabi: "Humingi ka ng tanda sa Panginoon mong Dios maging ito ay kasin lalim ng daigdig sa ibaba O kasintaas man ng langit.

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Tandaan ninyo, maglilihian ang birhen at manganganak ng lalaki na tatawaging Emanuel."

The word of the Lord. Praise be to God.

Reading 2 Romans 1:1-7: A reading from the letter to the Romans:

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Pagbasa sa sulat ni San Pablo Apostol sa mga taga Roman 1:1-7

Mula kay Pablo, na lingkod ni Jesucristo, tinawag upang maging apostol at hinirang upang mangaral ng mabuting Balita ng Dios. Ang Mabuting Balitang ito na ipinangako niya noon pang una sa pamamagitan ng mga propeta at nasasaad sa mga Banal na kasulatan, ay tungkol sa kanyang Anak, ang ating Panginoong Jesucristo.

Ang kanyang pagiging tao, siya'y ipinanganak mula sa lipi ni David, at sa likas na kabanalan ng kanyang espiritu, siya ay ipinahayag na anak ng Dios sa pamamagitan ng makapangyaring gawa-ang kanyang muling pagkabuhay. Sa pamamagitan niya ay tinanggap namin sa Dios ang kaloob na maging apostol upang akayin ang lahat ng bansa sa pananampalataya at pagsunod sa kanya. Kabilang din kayo sa mga bansang tinawag upang maging tagasunod ni Jesucristo.

Sa inyong lahat na minamahal ng Dios na nangariyan sa Roma, na tinawag na maging banal: Sunainyo ang pagpapala at kapayapaan mula sa Dios na ating ama at sa Panginoong Jesucristo.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24: A reading from the gospel of Matthew:

Now 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 be with child 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.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday, December 22, Fourth Week of Advent

Reading 1. 1 Samuel 1:24-28. A reading from the first book of Samuel:

In those days, Hannah brought Samuel with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh.

After the boy’s father had sacrificed the young bull, Hannah, his mother, approached Eli and said: “Pardon, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood near you here, praying to the LORD. I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD.” She left Samuel there.

The word of the Lord. Praise be to God.

Pagbasa sa aklat ni propeta Samuel 1:24-28:

Nang lumaki na si Samuel, dinala siya ng kanyang ina sa bahay ni Yahweh sa Shilo. Nagdala pa siya ng isang torong tatlong taon,^[a] limang salop ng harina at alak na nakalagay sa sisidlang balat. ²⁵ Matapos ihandog ang baka, dinala nila kay Eli ang bata. ²⁶ Sinabi ni Ana, “Kung natatandaan ninyo, ako po ang babaing nakita ninyong nakatayo rito noon at nanalangin kay Yahweh. ²⁷ Hiniling ko sa kanya na ako’y pagkalooban ng anak at binigyan nga niya ako. ²⁸ Kaya naman po inihahandog ko siya kay Yahweh upang maglingkod sa kanya habang buhay.”

Pagkatapos nito, sinamba nila si Yahweh.

Gospel Luke 1:46-56: A reading from the gospel of Luke:

Mary said: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.”

Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

