

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2019

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



Behold, the Virgin Shall Conceive and Bear a Son

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name JESUS, for he will save his people from their sins.”

ST. MATTHEW 1:18-25.

St. Paul Lutheran Church – Preble

4510 W 750 N., Decatur, Ind. 46733

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

8am: Divine Service, P. 184.* 10:15am: Office of Matins, P. 219.*

Opening Hymn	Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come	350
Hymn of the Day	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	357
Communion 1	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus	338
Communion 2	The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came	356
Communion 3	Once in Royal David's City	376
Communion 4	Away in a Manger	365
Closing Hymn	Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising	375

CHOIR sings, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

* Following ancient custom, the TE DEUM and the GLORIA IN EXCELSIS are omitted during the penitential season of Advent. This Advent, the BENEDICTUS (P. 226) will take the place of the TE DEUM in the Office of Matins.

THE INTROIT Ps. 130:5-8; antiphon Is. 64:1.

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

**My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is plentiful redemption.

**And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.**

[sung] **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son...**

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

THE COLLECT

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come and help us by your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by your grace and mercy; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!"

THE EPISTLE

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE ALLELUIA & VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.