

December 18, 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Seek God and receive His blessings!

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-7, 10

Romans 1:1-7

Matt 1:18-24

In the first reading the Lord tells Ahaz to ask for a sign but he refuses to do so. In return God indicates he will give one anyway and it involves a prophecy of a virgin with child that shall be called Emmanuel.

The Psalmist notes that the earth and all those who dwell upon it are the Lord's. The believers whose hands are clean, whose hearts are pure, and who do not desire worthless things can ascend the Lord's mountain and receive blessings and even God's favors.

In the second reading Paul is identified as one set apart to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ who is the One in power, in the Spirit of holiness, the One who was resurrected. Paul prays that the Romans receive grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



The Gospel gives the background of the birth of Jesus. Mary was with child by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph is guided by an angel to take Mary as his wife and he obeys and the child is to be called "Emmanuel" meaning "God is with us."

**The Father is the source of all Signs,  
The Son is the Sign of Wisdom;  
The Holy Spirit sends Signs with angels.**



It is prophesied in Isaiah that there is to be a virgin with child and this will be a sign from God. The child is the Holy One, the Son of God, whose life is an example lived in the spirit of holiness. He is God's presence on the earth to all who dwell upon it. Paul's mission in life was to proclaim the Gospel of the Christ who was resurrected and this message brings signs of grace, peace, and blessings to the faithful believers. The Spirit sent an angel to Joseph with a clear sign.

During his ministry Jesus performed numerous signs and *many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.* (John 2:23).

However, consider the signs he gave while still in the womb of Mary:

He gave Elizabeth the sign of joy: "*For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.*" (Luke 1:44).

He gave Anna the prophetess a sign of revelation: "*And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem*" (Luke 2:38).

He gave Simeon a sign of peace: "*Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word,*" (Luke 2:29).

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