

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year C

19th December 2021

Violet

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Micah,

Chapter 5 beginning at Verse 2

² ^[a] But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil, ^[b]
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

[NRSV Micah 5.2–5a]

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Psalm: Song of Mary [page 425 APBA]

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Who has looked with favour on 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.
God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.
The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews,

Chapter 10 beginning at Verse 5

⁵Consequently, when Christ^[a] came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book^[b] it is written of me).”
⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and
offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the
law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in
order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will^[c] that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

[NRSV Hebrews 10.5–10]

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,

Chapter 1 beginning at verse 39

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill
country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted
Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry,
“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why
has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as
I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And
blessed is she who believed that there would be^[a] a fulfillment of what was spoken
to her by the Lord.”

[NRSV Luke 1.39–45]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

Sentence

**Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken
to her by the Lord.**