

GATHERING HYMN: 'For Mary, Mother of Our Lord' – (166)

COLLECT:

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for
his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen



FIRST READING

Micah 5: 2-5a

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.

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

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;
and he shall be the one of peace.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10: 5 —10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When 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), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL HYMN— 'The Angel Gabriel' – (620)

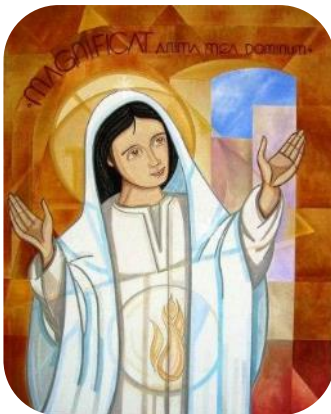
We sing verse 4 after the Gospel Reading

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a

loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'



This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE GIFTS: 'When Our God Came to Earth' – (729)

COMMUNION HYMNS: 'Praise God'

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, O Christ, and in our darkness dwell,
and be our Lover, our Emmanuel.
Come, enter in the womb of our hearts,
and bless us by the Life your grace imparts.
Rejoice! O God, your Christ, once dead, you raise;
and raised with him, we sing to you our praise.

O Come, beloved Host, and be our guest,
and feast with all the poor whom you have blessed.
The gifts we bring in joy to this place
are gifts that you have given us in grace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ comes to bless and heal,
and be with us forever in this meal.

Words: Used with permission; Steve Garnaas-Holmes

'Lord Jesus Christ' - (408)

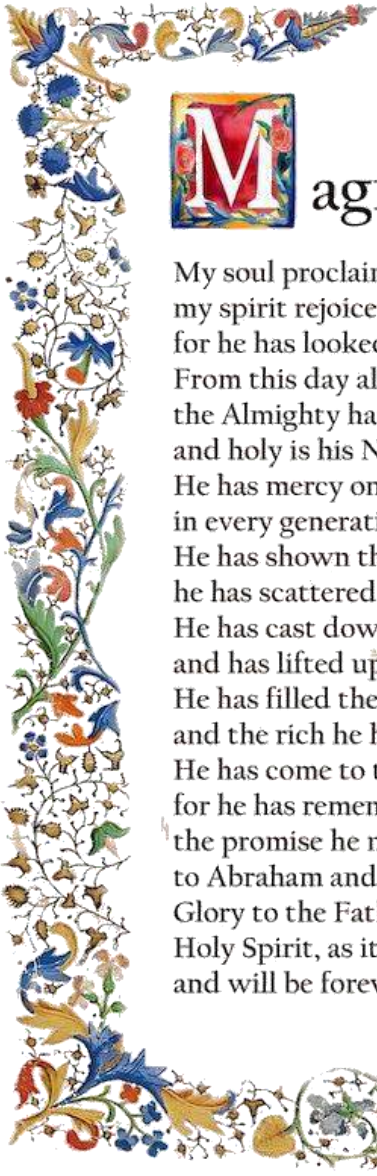
'God Whose Love is All Around Us' – (222)

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FINAL HYMN: 'Tell Out My Soul' – (612)



Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor 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.

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

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he 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 has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.



men