

## Fourth Sunday in Advent - December 23, 2018

### Introit

*1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47*

My soul magni- | fies the Lord,\*  
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.  
**My mouth derides my | enemies,\***  
**because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.**  
There is none holy | like the LORD;\*  
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like  
our God.  
**The barren has borne | seven,\***  
**but she who has many children | is forlorn.**  
The LORD kills and | brings to life;\*  
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.  
**The LORD makes poor and | makes rich;\***  
**he brings low and | he exalts.**  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
My soul magni- | fies the Lord,\*  
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

### Collect of the Day

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.

### Old Testament Reading

*Micah 5:2-5a*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the  
strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.  
<sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

## Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.  
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*  
righteous and having sal- | vation.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*  
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

## Epistle

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;  
<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O  
God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”  
<sup>8</sup>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), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “Behold, I have come to do  
your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish  
the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified  
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for  
all.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:39-45*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

### **Acknowledgments**

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