



LECTIONARY

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Lector: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *

shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *

stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of

hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, * how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the de-

risation of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us
to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of
hosts; *
show the light of your
countenance, and we shall
be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon
the man of your right hand,*
the son of man you have

made so strong for your-
self.

17 And so will we never
turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may
call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God
of hosts; *

show the light of your
countenance, and we shall
be saved.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn:

“While Shepherds Watch Their Flock by Night”

#94

Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew**.*

People:

Glory to you, Lord Christ

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Prayers of the People

After the lay leader has said the first prayer, please feel free, as the spirit moves you, to say the next prayer. If two or more start together please continue together

Please respond to each of these prayers with the
The Phrase in Bold

God of Isaiah and Joseph, give your church dreams and visions; and the courage to follow them.

(Silence) Saying together:

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, HEAR US!

We pray with the rest of our nation for God's guidance and wisdom; and the protection of our Armed Forces.

(Silence) Saying together: **COME LORD JESUS!**

We pray with our local community for all those who are alone as we wait for the coming of our Lord.

(Silence) Saying together: **COME LORD JESUS!**

God of Hope, we remember those who mourn or experience any suffering in body, mind or spirit. Please say aloud, or in your hearts, the names of those for whom you wish to pray.....

Saying together:

GOD OF MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER!

Compassionate God, we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ and those whose faith is known only to you. Please say aloud or silently the names of those in your heart today. (Pause for people to say names)

Saying together: **GOD OF LOVE, HEAR OUR PRAYER!**