

put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.

And he called his name Jesus.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

#### OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

*(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)*

#### PROPER PREFACE

*Advent*

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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Sources: The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



#### SEASONAL GREETING

*Celebrant* Surely the Lord is coming soon.

*People* **Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

*Revelation 22:20*

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-17

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day

that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALTER VERSES

*(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)*

#### Psalm 24

- <sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, \*  
the compass of the world and those who dwell therein.
- <sup>2</sup> For he has founded it upon the seas \*  
and established it upon the rivers of the deep.
- <sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? \*  
Or who shall stand in his holy place?
- <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, \*  
and who has not set his mind upon vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbor.
- <sup>5</sup> He shall receive blessing from the LORD \*  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- <sup>6</sup> This is the generation of those who seek him, \*  
even of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O you gates, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors; \*  
and the King of glory shall come in.
- <sup>8</sup> “Who is the King of glory?” \*  
“It is the LORD, strong and mighty, even the LORD,  
mighty in battle.”
- <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O you gates, and be lifted up, you ever-

lasting doors; \*

and the King of glory shall come in.

<sup>10</sup>“Who is the King of glory?” \*

“The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.”

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

#### Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

#### Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to