

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

21st December 2025

Love



## Welcome and Reflection

### Candle Lighting Ritual – The Candle of Love

Today we light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath — the Candle of Love. As Christmas draws near, we remember Mary’s trust, Joseph’s quiet courage, and the patient love of God who desires to dwell among us.

*(The fourth candle is lit.)*

Lord Jesus, You are the Light who scatters darkness and the Love that heals our wounded world. As we light this candle, may its flame remind us that Your love is gentle, steadfast, and faithful.

### Prayer (All)

**God of Love,**

**as we light this fourth Advent candle,**

**fill our hearts with the love that You poured out for us in Christ.**

**Prepare us to welcome You with open hearts.**

**Make us instruments of tenderness, patience, and compassion for all we meet.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, dwell among us and within us and be our peace.**

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. (Enya)

### Penitential Rite

### Collect

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **First Reading (Isaiah 7:10-14).**

**Theme** *We hear how Isaiah looks forward to the birth of a child as a sign that God is with us.*

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: “Ask for a sign from the LORD your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!”

But Ahaz answered, “I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!”

Then Isaiah said: “Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”

The Word of the Lord

### **Responsorial Psalm 24:1–6**

#### **R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The earth is the LORD’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers /R

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who desires not what is false /R

He shall receive blessing from the LORD,  
and justice from the God of his salvation.

Such is the generation that seeks him,

that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. /R



### **Second Reading Romans 1:1-7**

**Theme.** *Paul introduces his letter to the Romans with an outline of God’s plan for our salvation.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and 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 for the sake of his name among all the Gentiles, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

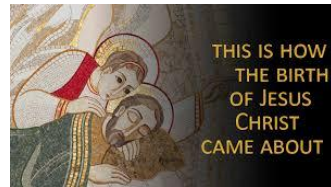
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

The word of the Lord

## GOSPEL Acclamation

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, v**

Mary will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'



**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,**

## Gospel Matt 1:18-24

**Theme:** *The child is named. His names indicate that he saves and is the presence of God.*

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 fulfil 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Quite Music:** Immanuel – Piano Instrumental (Kaleb Brasee)

**Lectio.** Share how the Word speaks to our life. It is not a bible study or discussion.

### **Creed**

We believe in one God, we believe, we believe  
Father of us all, we believe, we believe.....

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **Communion Rite. / Our Father**

**Communion Hymn:** Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Elenyi)

### **CONCLUDING RITE**

#### **Prayer For The Road Ahead**

Loving God,  
as the candle of love burns brightly among us,  
we thank You for the gift of Your presence  
and for the nearness of Your promise.

As we go from this place together,  
prepare our hearts to welcome Christ with love,  
and make us ready to share that love  
with all we meet on the road ahead.

May our lives reflect the light we have received,  
until Christ is born anew among us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Closing Hymn:** Joy To The World: (The Mormon Tabernacle choir)

#### **Final Blessing. Announcements**

