

**December 23, 2018**

**4 Advent**

**First Reading:**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup>But 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.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>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;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

**Luke 1:46b-55**

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will | call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
and holy | is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on | those who fear you,  
from generation to | generation. R**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength | with your arm  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty | from their thrones  
and lifting | up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry | with good things  
and sent the rich | away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,  
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made | to our forbears,  
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. R

## Second Reading

### Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>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).”

<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, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.