

### **The Collect**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Micah 5:2-5a**

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.

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.

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;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

### **Psalm 80:1-7**

- 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 derision of our neighbors, \*  
    and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**Lessons: Sunday, December 22, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

When Christ came into the world, he said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
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)."

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), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Luke 1:39-45**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."