



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

What enabled Mary to say yes to God? How have your preparations for Christmas made you more aware of God's grace working in your lives? What was one way you said yes to God this season?

Reading I : 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

What was God's purpose in admonishing David? God speaks of His past care for David, but also assures him of His presence with Israel. How does God intend to care for his people Israel? What does this say about God's presence in our lives?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II: Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

What is being highlighted about God's character? Jesus, long proclaimed in the prophetic writings, has come. How will the obedience of faith come forth? What will prepare us to do extraordinary things in this world?



Feast days this week

Sunday 24	<u>4th Sunday of Advent</u> Week IV
Monday 25	<u>The Nativity of the Lord</u> solemnity
Tuesday 26	St Stephen, the first Martyr feast
Wednesday 27	St John, Apostle, Evangelist feast
Thursday 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs feast
Friday 29	5th day of Christmas Octave, St Thomas à Becket, Bishop, Martyr feast (E)
Saturday 30	6th day of Christmas Octave

reflect

What barriers in my life keep me from saying yes to God?

pray

Father God, help me to be open to Your grace and the Holy Spirit in order to be able to cooperate in Your plan for salvation. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

live

As we celebrate Christmas, receive Christ with great love and joy!