

DECEMBER 19, 2021



Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc. • Photos: © Inc / ShutterStock, © gomolach / AdobeStock  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

# FOURTH Sunday OF *Advent*

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country  
in haste to a town of Judah,  
where she entered the house of  
Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:39–40

# Audacity

There is a spirit of audacity in our readings today. During a time of injustice and threat of invasion, the prophet Micah boldly announces that the God of insignificant Israel will raise up a leader from backwater Bethlehem, and this leader will bring justice and peace to the whole world. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary, marginalized women, brazenly celebrate that their sons will be world-changing instruments of God. We further learn that this audacity is rooted in trust in God. The author of Hebrews describes the faithful obedience of Jesus. Mary is shown as the exemplar of faithful trust in God. This is the way God often seems to work, in the ordinary and marginalized in our world. Those who seem weak have learned to trust in God's strength. These have the audacity to become instruments of God's peace and justice.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Saints and Special Observances

<b>Sunday:</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
<b>Thursday:</b>	St. John of Kanty
<b>Friday:</b>	The Vigil of Christmas
<b>Saturday:</b>	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

## Readings for the Week

<b>Monday:</b>	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
<b>Thursday:</b>	Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
<b>Friday:</b>	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
<b>Saturday:</b>	Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
<b>Sunday:</b>	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52



## Today's Readings

**First Reading** — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

**Psalm** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

**Second Reading** — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

**Gospel** — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Prayer Of The Week

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,  
your grace into our hearts,  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your  
Son was made known by the message of an Angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross  
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

## Reflection question:

How can I make known to others the Incarnation of Christ?

Collect text from the English translation of The Roman Missal, © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.

## Treasures From Our Tradition

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

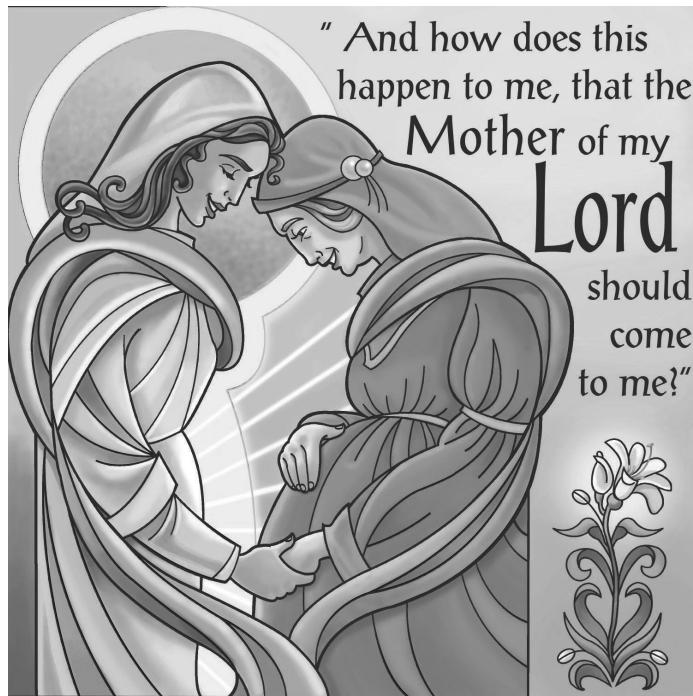
There is a Christmas song that says of Bethlehem: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light." Bethlehem is a suburb of Jerusalem. Its main tourist attraction in the time of Jesus was that it was the birthplace of David. Though today it has many modern homes and buildings, you can still see that it is part of "the hill country. . .of Judah." (Lk 1:39) It is not too far from En Kerem, where John the Baptist was born, and apparently where today's Gospel takes place.

We see in the Gospel reading today how Elizabeth and her unborn child rejoiced at the news of Jesus' coming birth. The story implies that Mary went to see Elizabeth as soon as the angel told her about Jesus. Maybe it was easier to tell her cousin, who was also with child, than her fiancé. I would think that talking about it made this miracle more real. I know that talking about my faith makes it more real to me.

Jesus is the "everlasting Light" mentioned in the song. That light shines today, not just in Bethlehem, but everywhere that his followers bring it. When we console someone who is mourning, that light shines. When we offer to help someone in need, it shines brighter. When we forgive someone who hurt us, the light is burning. When we offer to sponsor a candidate in the RCIA, the light grows. When we teach a child how to pray, it shines even brighter.

Our dark streets need the everlasting Light today as much as they did 2000 years ago. Today we remember how Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith in God. They did so much like we do today. Mary could not see her unborn son yet, but helped Elizabeth to believe by her words. Jesus, who seems to be invisible today, is seen in the shared faith of those who bring him into the world by their words and actions.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## Nature Restored

Christ is born, that by his birth he might restore your nature.

—St. Peter Chrysologus

## Love Now

Let those love now  
who never lov'd before;  
let those who always lov'd  
now love the more.

—Anonymous



# CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & MORTUARIES

EVERLASTING FAITH. EVERLASTING LIFE.

Un ministerio de la Iglesia  
al servicio de los fieles.

Obtenga información sobre nuestras  
11 ubicaciones en los condados de  
Los Ángeles, Ventura y Santa Bárbara

[CatholicCM.org](http://CatholicCM.org)

**Get this  
weekly bulletin  
delivered by  
email - for FREE!**



Sign up here:

[www.jspaluch.com/subscribe](http://www.jspaluch.com/subscribe)

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



## SPACE AVAILABLE

To Advertise Here...

Contact JILL ADAIR  
today at (800) 231-0805  
[adairj@jspaluch.com](mailto:adairj@jspaluch.com)

**J.S.Paluch**  
Company

Protecting **Seniors**  
Nationwide



Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608

087050 St Athanasius Church

## Vocations Don't Just Happen: Ask Somebody.

Serra for Priestly and Religious Vocations

## Please Patronize

The Sponsors Who Appear On This Bulletin. It Is Through  
Their Support That This Bulletin Is Made Possible.  
Business Owners Interested In Advertising Please Call



**J.S. Paluch**  
1-800-231-0805

### LIVING TRUST TESTAMENTOS WILLS

**\$800.00\***

\* Includes  
Health Directives & Recording of (1) Grant Deed

FREE Initial Consultation

**(323) 728-5610**

43 Years in Business  
License No. 0512895

**Galo Pesantes**

Se Habla Español

**Living Trust Web Company**

9530 E. Imperial Hwy. Suite Q, Downey, CA 90242

## If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

24 Hour Protection at **HOME** and **AWAY!**

✓ Ambulance ✓ Solutions as Low as \$19.95 a month

✓ Police ✓ Fire

✓ Friends/Family **FREE Shipping**

**FREE Activation**

**NO Long Term Contracts**



**CALL NOW! 800.809.3352**

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection

Nationwide, No Land Line Needed

EASY Set-up, NO Contract

24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

**The Most Complete  
Online National  
Directory of  
Catholic Parishes**

## LUYBEN DILDAY MORTUARY

Burials • Cremations • Pre-Planning

MARTIN LUYBEN JAMES MORGAN

**GUARANTEED LOWEST FUNERAL COST IN TOWN**

5161 Arbor Rd., LB

**425-6401**

[www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com)

## ONE PARISH

Grow in your faith,  
find a Mass, and  
connect with your  
Catholic Community  
with OneParish!



Download Our Free App or Visit

[www.MY.ONEPARISH.com](http://www.MY.ONEPARISH.com)

For Ads: J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1-800-231-0805

Pray  
For Peace

Please Cut Out This "Thank You" Ad  
and Present It The Next Time You  
Patronize One of Our Advertisers

**Thank You**

Thank you for advertising in  
our church bulletin.  
I am patronizing your business  
because of it!

**Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship  
of the Sea of the United States of America**

**Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.**

Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email

[eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com](mailto:eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com)

[www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com](http://www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com)