

ADVENT 2009 - WEEK 4

CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL IS CLOSE AT HAND!

PRESENCE OF GOD

The heavens are telling the glory of God and all creation is shouting for joy; Jesus is our Emmanuel.

PRAYER

O God of Elizabeth and Mary,
You visited Your servants with news of the world's redemption
in the coming of the Savior.
Make our hearts leap with joy,
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,
that we may announce glad tidings of peace,
and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)



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."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for He has looked with favor on the

lowliness of His servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name.
His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, according to the promise He made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

HYMN: LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENT

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Brothers and sisters,

as we joyfully await the glorious coming of the Christ,
let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.

Response: COME LORD JESUS AND BE LIGHT FOR OUR EYES.

That we may say "yes" to what the Lord asks of us as Mary did...

That the celebration of this Advent will remind us that life is short
and we need to be prepared to meet the Lord whenever He comes...

That we too may be filled with joy when we encounter the Lord in Word,
Sacrament and One Another...

That we realize that the Lord Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords
and true honor and worship belong to Him...

God of joy and exultation,
You strengthen what is weak;
You enrich the poor
and give hope to those who live in fear.
Look upon our needs this day.
Make us grateful for the Good News of Salvation
and keep us faithful in Your service
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who lives for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER

O God of the exiles and the lost,
You promise restoration and wholeness through the power of Jesus the Christ.
Give us faith to live joyfully, sustained by Your promises as we eagerly await the
day when they will be fulfilled for all the world to see,
through the coming of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.



O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ,
all things are in Your hands,
come and show us the way to salvation.

Saint John Baptist De La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to spread the Light of the Lord, our Emmanuel.

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!