

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent****Year C**

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Readings: 1) Micah 5:2-5a 2) Hebrews 10:5-10 3) Luke 1:39-45

**Sunday Liturgy**

The focus for today is: Jesus has come to us as our King and Shepherd. In a few days, we will celebrate the great gift that God has given to humanity two thousand years ago: the gift of Jesus. Jesus comes as Savior of the world and as the majestic King – but also as a Shepherd who cares deeply and personally for each one of us on our journey. He is truly God's gift to us.

In the first reading, Micah prophesies that tiny Bethlehem will be the birthplace of the Messiah, a great ruler for all time. Paul reflects on Jesus' offering of himself and his obedience to God's will, through which we are consecrated. The Gospel depicts Mary's visit to Elizabeth, who recognizes Mary's role as Mother of God.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS****PRIEST:**

As we come nearer to the arrival of Jesus,  
we turn to our Father, entrusting to him our needs and those of our world.

For the pope and all bishops and priests,  
may God guide them in their role as  
teachers and preachers of the Good News.

We Pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For those who work to spread the Gospel throughout the world,  
may they give deeper witness to the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We Pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For those who are sick in mind, body and spirit;  
may the healing powers of Jesus, give them strength.

We Pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For our deceased loved ones,  
may they find rest in the eternal presence of God.

We Pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For those of our community who are far from home or loved ones,  
may they feel the embrace of this family of faith.

We Pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions.

We Pray to the Lord. Hear our prayer.

**PRIEST:**

Loving God, everything we have is a gift from you.  
Grant us trust in your providence as we pray for the needs of those around us.  
We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus.