

December 19, 2010  
Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

FIRST READING

Romans 1:2-4

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

**B**rothers and sisters:

Long ago God promised the good news

by what his prophets said in the holy Scriptures.

This good news is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ!

As a human, he was from the family of David.

But the Holy Spirit proved that Jesus

is the powerful Son of God,

because he was raised from death.

The word of the Lord.

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Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4abc*

*All: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

*The earth and everything on it  
belong to the LORD.*

*The world and its people  
belong to him.*

*The LORD placed it all  
on the oceans and rivers.*

*All: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

*Who may climb the LORD's hill  
or stand in his holy temple?*

*Only those who do right  
for the right reasons,  
and don't worship idols.*

*All: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

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GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ was born.

A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family.

But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit.

Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone.

So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this,

an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream.

The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit.

Go ahead and marry her.

Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

So God's promise came true, just as the prophet had said,

"A virgin will have a baby boy,  
and he will be called Immanuel,"  
which means "God is with us."

After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**