

**December 24, 2017**  
**Fourth Sunday**  
**of Advent (B)**



**FIRST READING**

Romans 16:25-27

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

**B**rothers and sisters:

Praise God!

He can make you strong by means of my good news,  
which is the message about Jesus Christ.

For ages and ages this message was kept secret,  
but now at last it has been told.

The eternal God commanded his prophets  
to write about the good news,  
so that all nations would obey and have faith.  
And now, because of Jesus Christ,  
we can praise the only wise God forever! Amen.

**The word of the Lord.**

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 47:1-2, 7-8*

**All:** *God is king of all the earth!*

*All of you nations,  
clap your hands and shout  
joyful praises to God.  
The LORD Most High is fearsome,  
the ruler of all the earth.*

**All:** *God is king of all the earth!*

*God is ruler of all the earth!  
Praise God with songs.  
God rules the nations  
from his sacred throne.*

**All:** *God is king of all the earth!*

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**GOSPEL**  
Luke 1:26-38

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

God sent the angel Gabriel  
to the town of Nazareth in Galilee  
with a message for a virgin named Mary.  
She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David.  
The angel greeted Mary and said,  
"You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."

Mary was confused by the angel's words  
and wondered what they meant.  
Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid!  
God is pleased with you, and you will have a son.  
His name will be Jesus.  
He will be great  
and will be called the Son of God Most High.  
The Lord God will make him king,  
as his ancestor David was.  
He will rule the people of Israel forever,  
and his kingdom will never end."

Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen?  
I am not married!"

The angel answered,  
"The Holy Spirit will come down to you,  
and God's power will come over you.  
So your child will be called the holy Son of God.

"Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son,  
even though she is old.  
No one thought she could ever have a baby,  
but in three months she will have a son.  
Nothing is impossible for God!"

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant!  
Let it happen as you have said."

And the angel left her.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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