



Liturgy Cycle A

## **Fourth Sunday Of Advent** **Preparing For Christmas**

### **Introduction**

We are getting very close to Christmas, and the pace of things is hotting up. There are so many things calling for our time and attention. The result could be that the spiritual side of Christmas hardly gets a look in. let us make room in our minds and hearts so that Christ may come to us during this mass.

### **First Reading (Isaiah 7: 10-14)**

This reading foretells the birth of a very special child- a child who will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us.

### **Second Reading (Romans 1: 1-7)**

This contains the opening lines from St Paul's letter to the Christians at Rome. In them he refers to the human and divine 'roots' of Christ.

### **Gospel (Matthew 1: 18-25)**

Joseph, the just man, is told that Mary's child was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit, and the mission of this child is to save his people from their sins.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray that we may understand in our hearts and experience in our lives the true meaning of the coming of Christ.

**R: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**For all Christians: that they may celebrate the birth of Christ with the simplicity and joy of Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**For all temporal leaders: that in their administration of justice they may make room for the poor and the weak members of society. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Come, Lord Jesus.**



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**For the old, the sick, and the lonely: that they may experience the presence of Christ this Christmas. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**That Jesus may be born in each of us, for he could be born thousand times in Bethlehem, but it would all be in vain unless he is born in us. Let us pray to the Lord.**

**R: Come, Lord Jesus.**

#### **Communion Reflection**

**Some years ago a distraught woman  
Threw her new born baby into a canal.  
The baby was rescued by a young man.  
Later, on radio, he described the rescue.**

**When he took the baby from the canal  
It was so cold and lifeless that he thought it was dead.  
Nevertheless, he brought it into a nearby house.  
Laid it down in front of the fire,  
And suddenly it came back it life.  
'It was just like Christmas,' he said.**

**Christmas is a wonderful time.  
It's not true that it's just about children.  
It's about us all.  
We may consider ourselves very ordinary.  
But nobody is ordinary any longer,  
Not since Christ came on earth.**

**Yet he did not come to bring us anything.  
He came to awaken us to what we already are.  
We are all children of God.**