

Opening prayer: PS 89:2-5, 27, 29.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.
"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations."
"He shall say of me, 'You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.'
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm."
Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Commitment to Mission

As children of One Heavenly Father,
as brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ
united as a family of faith by the Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves to the pastoral conversion of our parish.
We gladly accept the work the Lord entrusts to us
as laity and clergy working together in the vineyard.
We resolve to live as faithful stewards of God's grace
in service of the evangelizing mission of the Church.
Charity and mercy will be the first response
we offer to those we encounter on the Way.
Fidelity to the Truth will light our path.
All to the praise and glory of God
with due honor to Our Blessed Lady of the Lake. Amen.

Introductions

Please state your name and one thing you will take away from this study.

Video - FORMED - Opening the Word**4th Sunday of Advent (Year B)**

<https://watch.formed.org/opening-the-word-1/season:2/videos/4th-sunday-of-advent-december-24-2017>

Gospel Reading: LK 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

Lectio - Read the Gospel Aloud and Discuss

What is the context of this reading? What is Luke saying about Mary and Jesus? How does Luke's writing differ from the other Gospel writers?

Meditatio - Read the Gospel again; silently answer the questions; then Discuss.

What is God saying to me today in this passage? What word or passage stands out to me?

Oratio - Read the Gospel silently; then follow the instructions below.

What do I need to say to God? If you are struggling try using the ACTS form of prayer:

Adoration - Praise God's Wonderfulness

Confession - Tell Him where you have missed the mark

Thanksgiving - Show gratitude for all He has provided

Supplication - Ask for what you need from Him.

Contemplatio - Read the Gospel silently again; then follow the instructions below

Lord, what conversion of the mind, heart, and life are you asking of me? Listen for His answer.

Actio - Discuss

What can I do with this learned knowledge to bring forth God's Kingdom?

Final Reflection & Closing Prayer

Second Reading ROM 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you,
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages
but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,
according to the command of the eternal God,
made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith,
to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ
be glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We have seen the Lord, and we want to bring others
to Him who is the Bread of Eternal Life.

Come, O heavenly Light.

Enlighten our minds so that we may know
your Holy Will for our parish.

Come Divine Advocate.

Bring to fulfillment the plan you have entrusted to us
for bringing the good news of salvation
to those who lack the light of faith.

Come, Divine Consolation.

Grant us the fullness of joy
as we profess, celebrate, live and pray our faith in You.

Come, Giver of every Good Gift.

Teach us the way of stewardship,
affirm us in our vocations,
and strengthen our commitment to charity,
that others may come to know, as we know,
the mercy of God Our Father,
and the Truth revealed in Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.