



22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Holy Communion

### Hymns

**631** Tell out, my soul

**634** The angel Gabriel from heaven came

**740** When our God came to earth

**949** Wait for the Lord

**379** Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

### Collect

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs of this  
present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Old Testament reading – Linda*

**Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 – Linda**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -  
on them light has shined.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

*New Testament reading – Christine*

**Hebrews 10: 5 - 10**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**



*For Unto Us a Child Is Born*  
Brazell, Gerald

*The Gospel reading- Chris*

**Luke 1: 39 - 56**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

**Mary's Song of Praise**

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness  
of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call  
me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for  
me,

and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts  
of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their  
thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our  
ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for  
ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three  
months and then returned to her home.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Post Communion**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



*Visitation of Mary*

*Pontormo, Jacopo da, 1494-1556  
Carmignano, Italy*