

SUNDAY, Dec.19, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: 1) Micah 5:1-4a 2) Hebrews 10:5-10 3) Luke 1:39-45

FOCUS: Christian communities are called to share in joy.

The interaction between Mary and Elizabeth can teach us about Christian community. The women share in the joy of being a part of God's plan. Likewise, Christians can draw together to celebrate with one another, as well as to support one another.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Micah prophesies that the ruler of Israel will come from Bethlehem-Ephrathah. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews writes that Christ said that he had come to do God's will and that all *have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*. In the Gospel, Mary visits Elizabeth and the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps at the sound of Mary's voice.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Gathered before our loving God, we place our needs before him.

- 1) For God's Church on earth, may the Holy Spirit grant us strength and joy as we share the Gospel message, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected leaders, may God grant them understanding and courage for sowing unity rather than division, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all expectant parents and their unborn children, may God grant health and wellness to mother and child, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God help us to support and uplift one another in prayer, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may God grant them everlasting joy and peace in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Almighty God, you sent your Son to walk with us and redeem us. We lift these prayers up to you in the confidence that you always grant what we need, through Christ our Lord.