

First Reading

Micah 5 v 2 – 5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the word of the Lord

Second Reading

Hebrews 10 v 5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ 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).’

⁸ 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), ⁹ then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰ 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

Gospel

Luke 1 v 39 - 45

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy.

⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’