

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY
December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

READING: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b} [Mary said] My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.
⁵⁰ You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵² casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 19

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all
generations.

**I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

'I will establish your descendants forever,

and build your throne for all generations."

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

"I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "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 holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.