

FIRST READING Isaiah 7.10–14

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,

‘Ask a sign of the LORD your God;

let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’

But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask,

and I will not put the LORD to the test.’

Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David!

Is it too little for you to weary mortals,

that you weary my God also?

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,

and shall name him Immanuel.’

This is the Word of The Lord.

SECOND READING Hebrews 10.4–10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

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 Christ said,

‘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.

GOSPEL Luke 1.26–38

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will name Him Jesus.

He 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.

He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The 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.

And 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.

For nothing will be impossible with God.'

Then 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.

This is the Gospel of The Lord.