

**Introduction:**

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we stand at the threshold of the great mystery of Emmanuel — *God with us*. The readings of today speak of a promise fulfilled, a child conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a quiet, courageous obedience of St Joseph. We too often struggle with uncertainty and God's unexpected ways in our lives. As we begin this Holy Eucharist, we acknowledge the moments we resisted God's plans, or hesitated to trust Him. Let us welcome Christ with faith, humility, and deeper surrender.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10–14  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6  
**Second Reading:** Romans 1:1–7  
**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18–24

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** With hearts longing to receive Christ, the Emmanuel, we place our prayers before the Lord.

**Response:** *Lord, graciously hear our prayer.*

For the Holy Father, our Bishops, Priests, and all who serve the Church — that they may help God's people recognize and trust the quiet workings of God in their lives ... we pray to the Lord.

For leaders of nations — that they may be guided by wisdom and humility, working for justice, peace, and the protection of every human life ... we pray to the Lord.

For those who are troubled by fear, confusion, broken relationships, or unexpected burdens — that, like Saint Joseph, they may find strength through faith and trust in God's word ... we pray to the Lord.

For families and our parish community — that our homes may become places of welcome, forgiveness, and loving readiness for the coming of Christ ... we pray to the Lord.

For our personal intentions and for all who have asked for our prayers ... (*longer silent pause*) ... we pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Gracious Father, You chose to dwell among us as Emmanuel, God-with-us. Strengthen our trust, deepen our faith, and prepare our hearts to welcome Your Son with joy and obedience. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**