

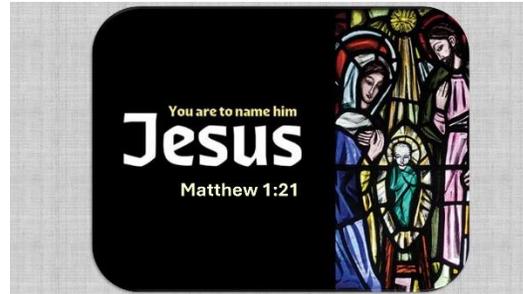
## December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Lectionary Notes

### The Readings on This Day

**\*\*\*Click on the links for the Bible**

**Verse(s)**

**Advent**



Throughout Advent we acclaim that God comes, in the past in the history of Israel and the incarnation of Jesus, in the present in the word and sacrament of each Sunday, and in the future at the end of all things. Only on this Fourth Sunday do the readings in Advent refer to the story of Jesus' birth as an arrival of God among us.

### [Isaiah 7:10-16](#)

Matthew sees in Christ a fulfillment of the promises in the Hebrew Scriptures. One example is his applying the Isaiah oracle about a newborn infant to the birth of Jesus, since the Greek rendering of "young woman" suggested "virgin woman." We read Isaiah 7 on this Sunday in order to understand what Matthew wrote in chapter 1. In this reading, we stand with believers of past centuries who place their trust for salvation in God, and we recall the tradition of interpretation upon which we stand, even when our methods of interpretation are different.

### The Psalm for the Day

[Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#): In the first reading, Christians have heard the promise that God will save the people. The sung response is the beginning and conclusion of Psalm 80, a prayer for help for the community. We join with ancient Israelites to beg that God will save us now and in the future. We too have suffered, and "the one at your right hand" is the Christ whom we both anticipate and celebrate now in word and sacrament. The name of this one on whom we call (v. 18) is Immanuel (Isa. 7:14).

### [Romans 1:1-7](#)

All of Advent, all of the entire Christian year, is summed up in Paul's opening sentence. On every Sunday throughout the year, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and call one another into the obedience of faith.

### [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

Year A relies on the gospel of Matthew for many of its narratives. According to Matthew, especially the men in the Jewish tradition are called into God's plan for salvation, but in this Sunday's gospel, God's promises are present through a woman. The child born is named "Emmanuel": God is with us, in word and sacrament, today and always.