

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 21, 2025

Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

*[formatted version with line breaks and verse markers removed]*

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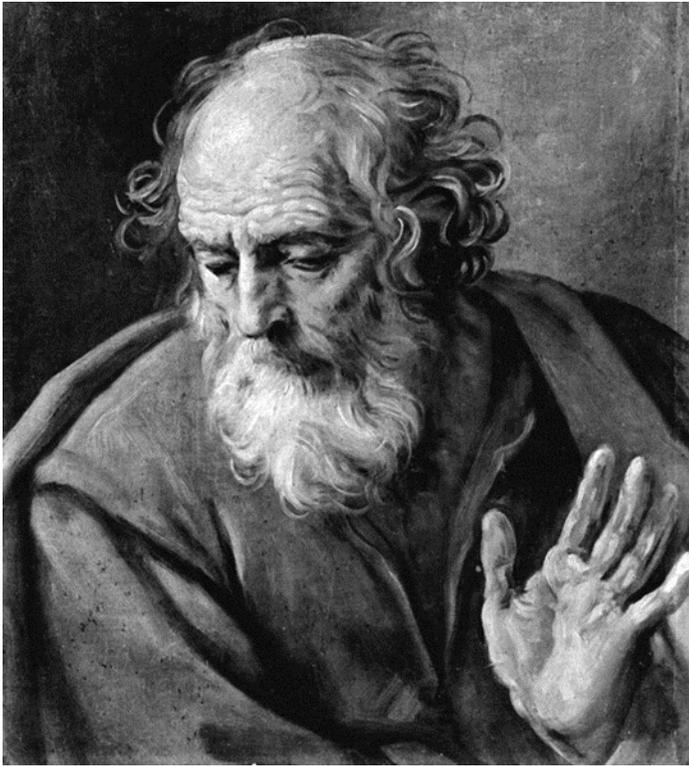
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*Joseph*

Guido Reni, Rome, Galleria di Palazzo Barberini, 1640-1642.

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**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

- ✘ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- ✘ before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!
- ✘ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ✘ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?
- ✘ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

- ✘ You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ✘ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ✘ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- ✘ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.
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**Romans 1:1-7** Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 1:18-25** Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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