

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 18, 2016

Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

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

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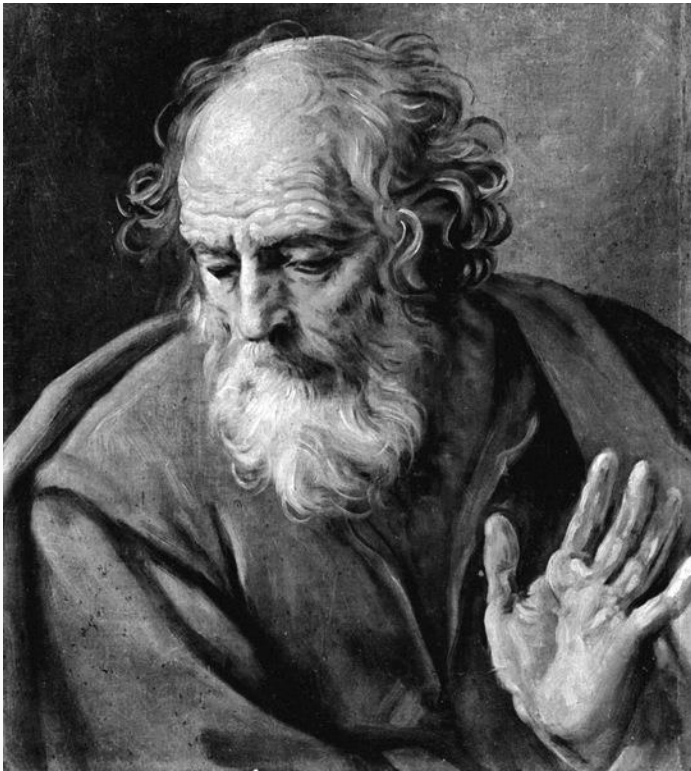
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*Joseph*, Guido Reni, Rome, Galleria di Palazzo Barberini, 1640-1642.

**Isaiah 7:10-16** Again 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

**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.
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**Romans 1:1-7** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, 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 yourselves 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.

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