



# 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 24th of December 2023 - Cycle B HOLY NIGHT



## YOU ARE MY GOD



### SETTING

On this day waiting and arrival converge. It is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, everything tastes like arrival.

At the very door of Christmas, we are offered this moment to, personally and communally, wait for you and adore you.

Waiting is the metaphor of Advent, of life, because in it waiting and coming are combined.

Let us open our interior to that coming that is joy, goodness, tenderness, good news, welcome, commitment...; gestures and words that make life the dream dreamed of, where we all are, we are, we talk, we applaud, we recognize the good and undertake possibilities that belong to everyone for everyone.

Raise your hands; sharpen your hearing and your gaze: listen carefully and have everything ready to make the path, the one that recognizes life in the child, in the promise of being like everyone else. Walk with Him, and be happy-

**SONG: HAIL MARY FULL OF GRACE- SUNDAY CHOIR**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUey6ytEXqY>

## **GOSPEL. Luke 1, 26-38**

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David; The virgin's name was Mary. And entering, he said to her: "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." She was disturbed by these words, and wondered what that greeting meant. The angel said to her: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God; you will conceive in the womb and give birth to a son, whom you will name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father; "He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and his kingdom will have no end." Mary answered the angel: "How will this be, since I do not know a man?" The angel answered him: «The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; that is why the one who is to be born will be holy and will be called the Son of God. Look, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is already the sixth month of her who was called barren, because nothing is impossible with God. Mary said: «Behold the handmaid of the Lord; Let it be to me according to your word". And the angel, after leaving her, was gone."

## **We deepen the Word (*Marie-Noëlle THABUT*)**

El The 2nd book of Samuel tells us today that God does not expect David to build him a house at all. Whether it is a simple tent or a royal palace, our buildings add nothing to the greatness of God. «Do you think I am a God who can be installed or fixed somewhere? Indeed, after Sinai, the Ark of the Covenant was always kept under a simple nomadic tent and it accompanied the people in all their movements, as a visible sign of the presence of God among his people. God's project is not a stone temple: his will goes much further than material constructions. What God wants is to firmly establish his people. This is the reason for the rejection. Then follows the promise: God says, I am the one who will build you a house.

Psalm 88(89) shows us that David has understood the lesson; He does not build a temple, but is content to house the Ark of the Covenant under the cloth of a tent, as was done during the long march of the Exodus. You cannot lay your hand on God; it is God who proposes to live among us! God affirms: «He will say to me, you are my Father, my rock and my salvation! And I will make him my firstborn son." "You are my son, I have begotten you." All the verses we have heard today therefore insist on this promise of God. But let's be honest, if we are so forcefully reminded of the promise in this psalm, we are in danger of not believing in it.

Paul, at the end of his letter to the Romans, tells us that, in reality, it is a single phrase that outlines, in broad strokes, the entire fresco of human history in which God's project develops. And this is the core, the central theme of the letter and, also, of all of Paul's theology: «Yes, here is the mystery that is now revealed; it has always remained silent, but today it has manifested itself. By order of the eternal God, and thanks to the writings of his prophets, this mystery is known to all nations to lead them to the obedience of faith.

Today, the Gospel of Luke puts us in front of all the Angel's announcements. The Virgin's response is of extraordinary simplicity! It could be said that there we have a beautiful example "of the obedience of faith" or, as Paul says, of total trust. The Virgin takes up the word of the great believers, beginning with Abraham: "Here I am." As Samuel knew how to say "Speak Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Sam 3, 10), Mary responds simply: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; Let it be done to me according to your word." The word "slave" here does not evoke servility, but rather free availability to God's plan. It is enough to say "Yes", because "Nothing is impossible to God"

## **Tips for Prayer**

- Mary is disturbed, thinks, asks and answers. Meditate and pray this dynamism That tells you?
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- - During this time of Advent, what have you heard in yourself? What has been your response?
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- - What does the gospel text tell us about our world, about our reality? What can you, can we do to receive the Lord?

## **AMBIENTAL MUSIC.**



### **INSTRUMENTAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2024**

[https://youtu.be/2qCRlFWnJo?si=dZVzf\\_RFuPEm1qBw](https://youtu.be/2qCRlFWnJo?si=dZVzf_RFuPEm1qBw)

## **LIFE IN PRAISE**

Mary, be of light and love.  
In you we find comfort and model.  
In Advent, your presence is felt,  
accompanying us in this time of waiting.

Temple of life, blessed are you.  
With your humility and dedication, you lead us.  
Your example of faith inspires us to follow,  
In every step, in every moment of existing.

The Lord has done great works in you.  
You are a safe refuge, you guide us.  
In your arms we find welcome and forgiveness,  
Mary, mother, you are our eternal song.

May you, in this Advent, Mary, teach us to love,  
to live in waiting, with a heart full of joy and peace.  
Rejoice Mary, blessed woman full of grace,  
You are our guide in this every story.

My life, be a temple that welcomes the God who is born,  
In every heartbeat, I feel his presence that wakes me up.  
In Advent, I prepare my heart like the place,  
to receive the Child God who comes to transform.

I am the living temple, in every thought,  
in every word that exalts.  
The flame of love lives in me,  
that drives me to live as an instrument.

Like Mary, model of humility and faith,  
I put my being so that God in me grows and is reborn.  
In every action, in every gesture of sincere love,  
Reflection of the God who lives in my being.

May this Advent be a time of renewal,  
A time to deepen the connection.  
May my life be a testimony of your greatness,  
As a temple of the God who is born in my humanity.

## **SONG. SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEH7\\_2c644Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEH7_2c644Q)



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