

4th Sun Adv B

Introduction...

We are continuing on our Advent journey towards the brilliance of our Christmas celebration.

The Scripture readings again speak of the coming of our Savior.

I Today's Scripture

In today's SS readings we hear of God's love for King David and God's promise to love him and his family forever.

The Gospel tells us about the fulfillment of this promise by God – but now God's promise extends to all peoples...

and God's own son comes among us,
to bring God's healing and love to a broken world.

Refrain... Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel

II Christmas Amnesia

Christmas and Advent are a time of remembering for those of us who are tempted to forget...

We get so busy about so many things in the course of our daily lives that we tend to suffer amnesia...

we forget about God and God's promises.

Many good people in our society have forgotten.

III Our Preparation for Christmas

We need Christmas to remind us in our *busyness* that God is present in our lives,

that God has not forgotten about us,

and that God loves us and considers us precious in God's sight.

I believe this is the *true* meaning of Christmas...

Christmas reminds us of God's powerful and passionate faithfulness to us and love for us...

Christmas is not *predominantly* about us and our gifts...

Christmas is about God's gift to us... Jesus.

Refrain... Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel

IV Today's Gospel

Let's now turn our attention to today's Gospel.
It recounts for us our story of Christmas... how it all began.
Mary, the angel, the strange announcement,
Mary's confusion,
a fuller explanation...
then Mary's acceptance...
yes, she consents to bringing God's son into our world.
She will be the Christ-bearer.

The stories we tell influence us, affect us, impact us.
Too many people get caught up in all of the Bad News stories.
This can cause us to forget about God and God's love for our world and for us.
Today's Gospel tells our Christian story.

Where are you and myself in our story?
We too are visited by God's messenger.
We too are graced by God.
We too are called to be a Christ-bearer...
to bring Christ into our world, our family, our neighborhood, our school, our job, our city.

Our response?
"Huh?"
What are you talking about?
I'm *just* a student, a worker, a mother, a father, a grandmother, a grandfather... a simple person.
Let's not get too 'religious' here!
Let's not go overboard.
Mary brought Christ into our world. That's her job. I could never do that!"

God says, "I'll help you... I'll grace you.
As a matter of fact, at this Mass I'll send my very Son into your heart to strengthen you.
Then you take my Son into your world."

Conclusion

This is the **challenge** of Christmas.
So often we forget that we are Christ-bearers.
Christmas helps to remind us of that too.

As we continue with this Mass let us invite Jesus into the manger of our heart
and ask Jesus to help us to bring him into our world.

Refrain... Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel

Conclulsion

As we continue with this Eucharist let's offer ourselves together with Jesus to our loving Father.

At communion time welcome Jesus into your heart.

Then take him forth into your world.

And have a blessed and joyful Christmas celebration.