

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2–5a

- ² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among
the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
- ³ Therefore he shall give them up un-
til the time
when she who is in labor has
given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall re-
turn to the people of Israel.
- ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd
his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of
the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for
now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵When Christ came into the world,
he said,

- “Sacrifices and offerings you have
not desired,
but a body have you prepared
for me;
- ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
- ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come
to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll
of the book.’”

⁸When he said above, “You have
neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt
offerings and sin offerings” (these
are offered according to the law),
⁹then he added, “Behold, I have
come to do your will.” He abolishes
the first in order to establish the sec-
ond. ¹⁰And by that will we have been
sanctified through the offering of the
body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39–45

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went
with haste into the hill country, to a
town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the
house of Zechariah and greeted Eliza-
beth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the
greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in
her womb. And Elizabeth was filled
with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she ex-
claimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are
you among women, and blessed is
the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why
is this granted to me that the mother
of my Lord should come to me?
⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your
greeting came to my ears, the baby
in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And
blessed is she who believed that there
would be a fulfillment of what was
spoken to her from the Lord.”