

## December 16

**Priest:** And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant--these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Is 56:6-7)

### Reflection

**Lector:** Advent prepares our minds and hearts for the coming of the Word of God. It is a gentle time, a time to watch that the word of Scripture does not fall on the rocky ground of distraction, nor by the wayside with our many cares, nor among thorns, caught up in flashy advertisements. It is to fall upon the rich soil of our minds and hearts where the Word of God can bury itself deep and bring forth fruit. The Lord is already near! Let us admit that we need his power and help. Come, Lord Jesus! Give us the gift of yourself.

### Antiphon

**Priest:** Behold the king will come, the Lord of the earth, and he will remove from us the yoke of our captivity. (cf. Hab 2:3; 1 Cor 4:5)

### Magnificat

**All:** My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever. (Lk 1:46-55)

## Intercessions

**Priest:** Jesus, light of the world, we wait in darkness, but also in hope for your coming;

**All:** show yourself to us in mercy and love.

**Priest:** Lord of Israel, you showed yourself to Moses in a burning bush;

**All:** stretch forth your mighty arm and come to save us.

**Priest:** Jesus, born of Mary, we pray with joyful hearts and wait with her in prayer;

**All:** come, Adonai!

**Priest:** Jesus, life of our bodies and souls,

**All:** by your coming let us be immersed in the mystery of your incarnation.

## Closing Prayer

**Priest:** Christ goes before us. He is the Lamb without sin who will open to us the gates of heaven. He is the high priest forever

according to the order of Melchisedech. He is the king of justice and his reign is eternal.

You who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end.

**All:** Amen.

**1.** Holy Virgin, by God's decree,  
You were called eternally;  
That he could give his Son to our race.  
Mary, we praise you, hail, full of grace.

**Refrain:** Ave, ave, ave, Maria.

**2.** By your faith and loving accord,  
As the handmaid of the Lord,  
You undertook God's plan to embrace.  
Mary we thank you, hail, full of grace. **Refrain:**

**3.** Joy to God you gave and expressed,  
Of all women none more blessed,  
When in mankind your Son took his place.  
Mary, we love you, hail, full of grace. **Refrain:**

**4.** Refuge for your children so weak,  
Sure protection all can seek.  
Problems of life you help us to face.  
Mary, we trust you, hail, full of grace. **Refrain:**

**5.** To our needy world of today  
Love and beauty you portray,

Showing the path to Christ we must trace.

Mary, our mother, hail, full of grace. **Refrain:**