

18 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23(24):1-6

This psalm reflects a deep sense of wonder at how the Creator God generously allows us, as his creatures, to come close to him. He has made the entire universe and still blesses us if we respond with a good life.

[As so often we need to be aware of the lack of inclusive language in the text.]

LET THE LORD ENTER! HE IS THE KING OF GLORY.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Despite Christmas being so close we need to stop and remember the immensity of God's creative power. The psalmist could only imagine a flat world. Our advanced scientific understanding of the universe asks us to be even more appreciative of all God's works. Thank God for all the advances humans have made in science.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

Are we ready spiritually to welcome the birth of Emmanuel, God with us? What more do we need to do? Do we desire only worthy things in our relationships and our activities?

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Christ's birth and second coming bring blessings and rewards. Count your blessings thankfully. As Church we are God's holy, priestly people. Thank God for those who share faith with you.