

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ December 21, 2014

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Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-16 ~ Psalm 89 ~ Romans 16: 25-27 ~ Luke 1: 26-38



Scripture: “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. ... Behold, you will conceive ... and bear a son and you shall name him Jesus.”
“Jesus [is] ... manifested through the command of the eternal God ...”
(Luke 1: 28, 31; Romans 16: 26)

Reflection: *Will Jesus be born again this Christmas?*

The answer is “yes” if we follow the path of Mary --

- + if we disengage from all that hinders us, letting go of our fear and everything that distracts us, and are available to God;
- + if we go inside to the space deeper than mind and emotions to our heart, our soul and find an empty, ready, open core and there hear the angelic annunciation of “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you!”;
- + if we move beyond our preoccupations and release into the power of God’s everlasting love, flowing out of ourselves spontaneously so the spirit incarnates matter and the Word is made Flesh, *through us*.

Then indeed *Jesus will be born again!*

Each of us will GIVE BIRTH to JESUS for our WORLD.

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the example of Mary and for your gift of Jesus through her. She possessed a readiness that your Spirit filled, a love open to hear and respond to your invitation. Let each of us know we, too, are “full of grace.” Trace in our hearts the same detachment and availability needed to conceive your Son, in spite of our anxiety and feelings of inadequacy. Allow everything we do to flow from our center so that we, with Mary, may give birth to Jesus, your Word made flesh. Accomplish all this in accord with your eternal love, in Jesus, through your Spirit. Amen.



Try This Today: Take time during these last days before Christmas to reflect, asking yourself:
+ How has God’s grace been manifested in me for others, especially poor persons, during Advent?
+ What feelings does being “graced” trigger in me? Are they helps or blocks to being more loving?
+ How am I called to “birth Jesus” today in my current situations at home, in ministry, with friends?