

# Reading for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

March 25th 2026

## First reading

**Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10c**

**‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive.’**

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: ‘Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.’ And Isaiah said, ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel — God is with us.’

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 40(39):7-8a. 8b-9. 10. 11. R8a, 9a**

*Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.*

You delight not in sacrifice and offering,  
but in an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come.’

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:

‘I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your instruction lies deep within me.’

Your uprightness I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord.

Your saving help I have not hidden in my heart;  
of your faithfulness and salvation I have spoken.

I made no secret of your merciful love  
and your faithfulness to the great assembly.

## Second reading

**Hebrews 10:4-10**

**‘I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’**

Brothers and Sisters: It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 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.” ’

When 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), then he added, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will.’ He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## Gospel Acclamation

**John 1:14ab**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

## **Gospel**

## **Luke 1:26-38**

**‘Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.’**

At that time: The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!’ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’

And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’ And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.

### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

There are some specific details in today’s gospel: Galilee, Nazareth, Joseph of the house of David, Mary. It happens a very particular place, Nazareth in Galilee, and to a very particular couple in that place, Joseph who was betrothed to Mary. It was that particular couple in that particular place at a particular moment in time whom God chose in a special way for the sake of all of humanity. It was to that couple in that place at that time that God’s Son was entrusted for all of us. The gospel concludes with the confident declaration, “Nothing is impossible to God.” Yet, the one thing that God cannot do is to force our consent. God’s purpose for our lives was dependent on the consent of this particular woman in this particular place at a particular time, and, also, on the consent of her spouse, Joseph. Mary’s consent to God’s messenger allowed God’s purpose to come to pass for all of us. In a certain sense, at the moment of the annunciation, Mary represented us all; we all waited for her to say “yes” to God on all our behalf. All of humanity’s deepest aspirations were focused on this particular woman, place and time. At the annunciation, God’s call met with the complete human response, “Let what you have said be done to me.” Luke is presenting Mary here as the exemplary disciple, the one who hears the word of God and keeps it. Because of her exemplary response to God, she became a source of blessing for all of humanity. If we can enter in some way into her response to God’s call, we too will be a source of blessing for others.