

JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY (C)

1st. READING (2S 7, 4-5.12-14.16)

Yahweh's word came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, this is what Yahweh says: Are you able to build a house for me to live in? When the time comes for you to rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your son after you, the one born of you and I will make his reign secure. He shall build a house for my name and I will firmly establish his kingship forever. I will be a father to him and he shall be my son. If he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod, as men do. Your house and your reign shall last forever before me, and your throne shall be forever firm."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 89)

I will sing forever, O Lord, of your love
and proclaim your faithfulness from age to age.
I will declare how steadfast is your love,
how firm your faithfulness.

You said, "I have made a covenant with David,
my chosen one; I have made a pledge to my servant.
I establish his descendants forever;
I build his throne for all generations."

They celebrate all day your name and
your protection lifts them up.
I will keep my covenant firm forever,
and my love for him will endure.

2nd. READING (Rom 4, 13.16-18.22)

If God promised Abraham, or rather his descendant, that the world would belong to him, this was not because of his obeying the Law, but because he was just and a friend of God through faith. For that reason, faith is the way and all is given by grace; and the promises of Abraham are fulfilled for all his descendants, not only for his children according to the Law, but also for all the others who have believed. Abraham is the father of all of us, as it is written: I will make you father of many nations. He is our father in the eyes of Him who gives life to the dead, and calls the non-existent as if already existing, for this is the God in whom he believed. Abraham believed and hoped against all expectation, thus becoming father of many nations, as he had been told: See how many will be your descendants. This was taken into account for him to attain righteousness.

GOSPEL (Mt 1, 16.18-21.24)

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and from her came Jesus who is called the Christ - the Messiah. This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her. While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him 'Jesus' for he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do and he took his wife to his home.