



### About the Cover

The Old Testament sacrifices and offerings were always given in order to point forward to Christ. Christ has come to fulfill the Law, not merely with the outward observance of sacrifices and offerings, but with His whole body. For Christ has accomplished what we could never do. By taking on human flesh, He has redeemed and sanctified us, going all the way to the cross. He has become the one-time and eternal sacrifice for us.

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2–5a

- <sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be  
among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for  
me  
one who is to be ruler in  
Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them  
up until the time  
when she who is in labor has  
given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers  
shall return to the people of  
Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and  
shepherd his flock in the  
strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name  
of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure,  
for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

### Epistle: Hebrews 10:5–10

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said,

- “Sacrifices and offerings you  
have not desired,  
but a body have you  
prepared for me;
- <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin  
offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.
- <sup>7</sup> 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.’”

<sup>8</sup>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), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39–45

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”