

# Lectionary Readings: Advent Week Four

- Isaiah 7:10-16
- Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
- Romans 1:1-7
- Matthew 1:18-25



## Isaiah 7:10-12

- Azaz is a wicked king
  - 2 Kings 16:2-4
  - 2 Chronicles 28:1-4
  - Ahaz refuses God's offer of a sign out of fake piety.
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- God's response to Ahaz
  - God's love is patience and persistent
  - God's love often comes with reassurance, not force.



## God's Sign for Ahaz:

- God is with you: Love is not abstract; God enters our lives and circumstances
- Faith: Trusting God's love gives courage in uncertainty
- Love is reliable: The promise of Immanuel points to Jesus – God fulfilled His word and His love
- Other significant promises of God:

### •Deuteronomy 31:8

“It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

### •Joshua 1:5

“No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.



• **Isaiah 41:10**

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

• **Isaiah 43:2**

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.”

• **Matthew 28:20**

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

• **Hebrews 13:5**

“For he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

