

REFLECTION

December 21, 2025

Advent week 4:

Isaiah 7: 10-14

In this reading, we encounter King Ahaz during a terrifying and uncertain time. The future is unstable, adversaries are all around him, and his empire is in danger. Through the prophet Isaiah, God reassures him, saying, "Ask for a sign from the Lord your God. Ahaz, however, declines. Instead of completely giving himself over to God, he would rather rely on his own political tactics.

How frequently do we act like Ahaz? Even in trying times, God encourages us to have faith, hope, and trust that He is at work. However, we hesitate. We rely on our own strategies, estimates, and safeguards.

But even when human trust fails, God keeps His word. Isaiah declares, "You will receive a sign from the Lord himself." After becoming pregnant, the virgin will give birth to a son, whom she will call Emmanuel. For us Christians, Jesus Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of this prophesy. God does not just provide remote assistance in Him. He comes to live among us. He enters our brokenness, fear, and uncertainty. He merges with us. May this advent help us embrace the God who is coming, rekindle our faith, and bolster our hope.