

Isaiah 7: 10-14

Hebrews 10: 4-10

Luke 1: 26-38

Today is the Feast of the Annunciation, nine months before Jesus' birthday.

In the first Reading, Isaiah says that God will give his people a sign. "The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel. A name which means, 'God is with us.'" This sign will be, and is, important. Certainly, in the fact of Mary's becoming pregnant through the Holy Spirit and then giving birth to our Saviour, Jesus Christ, but also because of her, 'Yes,' and subsequently Jesus' 'Yes' to his Father by his death and resurrection through which he achieved our redemption.

Both 'yesses' reflected an absolute desire to do God's will, as stated in the Psalm, in the Reading from Hebrews and then in Luke's Gospel passage. "You do not ask for Holocaust or victim. Instead, here am I. In the scroll of the book, it stands written that I should do your will." Then, "Just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to do your will.'" And, in the Gospel, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me."

We too are called to do God's will and nowhere is there a better example than in Mary's 'Yes' to becoming the mother of Jesus, and in Jesus' life and then dying on the cross for our sakes. These are the examples that we are asked to follow when we say the response to the Psalm; "Here I am Lord, I come to do your will."