

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

Gospel text (Lk 1:26-38): The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." ...

"Rejoice" ("Kairé"): beginning of the New Testament

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

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Today, fascinated by one of the most beautiful scenes of the Holy Scripture, we witness the most solemn moment of the beginning of the New Testament: "Rejoice". The usual greeting among Jews was "shalom", "peace", while the greeting in the Greek world was "Kaire", "rejoice". Surprisingly the Angel Gabriel when entering Mary's house uses the Greek greeting: "Kaire", "rejoice", "be glad".

With the beginning of the New Testament, recorded by Luke in this page, the opening up to the universality of God's people is created. From then on God's people included not only the Jewish people, but also the whole world, all the peoples. This Greek greeting of the Angel shows the new universality of the kingdom of David's Son.

—The New Testament is indeed "gospel", "good news" which brings joy. God is not far away, He is not unknown, enigmatic. God is close to us, so close that He becomes a child, and we can address Him by "thou".