

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year B

Season of Advent

First Reading † 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once the king had settled into his house and the Lord had granted him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan,

‘Look, I am living in a cedar-wood house, while the ark of God is housed in a tent.’

Nathan said to the king,

‘Go and do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.’

But that very night, the word of the Lord came to Nathan,

‘Go and tell my servant David,

“Thus says the Lord, Are you to build me a house for me to live in?

‘I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you wherever you went; I have cut off all your enemies for you. I am making your fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth.

‘I am providing a place for my people Israel; I shall plant them there, and there they will live and never be disturbed again; nor will they be oppressed by the wicked anymore, as they were in former times, ever since the time when I instituted judges to govern my people Israel; and I shall grant you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also tells you that he will make you a House.

‘And when your days are over and you fall asleep with your ancestors, I shall appoint your heir, your own son to succeed you, and I shall make his sovereignty secure.

‘I shall be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does wrong, I shall punish him with a rod such as human beings use, with blows such as humans give.

‘Your house and your sovereignty will ever stand firm before me and your throne be for ever secure.’”

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 88:2-5,27,29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your mercy, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
I declare your mercy is established for ever;
your faithfulness stands firm as the heavens.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

‘With my chosen one I have made a covenant.
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your descendants for ever,
and set up your throne through all ages.’

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

‘He will call out to me, “You are my father,
my God, the rock of my salvation.”
I will keep my faithful love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.’

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading † Romans 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

A reading from letter of St Paul to the Romans

And now to him who can make you strong
in accordance with my gospel
and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
in accordance with the mystery
kept secret for long ages
but now made clear through the writings of the prophets,
and by the command of the eternal God,
made known to all nations,
for the obedience of faith,
to him, the only wise God,
through Jesus Christ
to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Luke 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her,

‘Rejoice full of grace! The Lord is with you.’

She was deeply disturbed by these words and pondered what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her,

‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Look! You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’

Mary said to the angel,

‘But how can this come about, since I have no knowledge of man?’

In answer the angel said to her,

‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. And see, your cousin Elizabeth also, in her old age, has conceived a son, and she who was said to be barren is now in her sixth month, *for nothing is impossible to God.*’

Mary said,

‘Here I am, the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said.’

And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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