

Fourth Sunday of Advent B

20 December 2020

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Now when David, the king, was settled in his house,
and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies
around him,

the king said to the prophet Nathan,

"See now, I am living in a house of cedar,
but the ark of God stays in a tent."

Nathan said to the king,

"Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

"Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord:

Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep
to be prince over my people Israel:

and I have been with you wherever you went,

and have cut off all your enemies from before you;

and I will make for you a great name,

like the name of the great ones of the earth.

"And I will appoint a place for my people Israel

and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place,

and be disturbed no more;

and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;

and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

"Moreover the Lord declares to you, David,
that the Lord will make you a house.

When your days are fulfilled

and you lie down with your ancestors,

I will raise up your offspring after you,

who shall come forth from your body,

and I will establish his kingdom.

"I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.
Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;
your throne, David, shall be established forever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

To God who is able to strengthen you
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery
that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed,
and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,
according to the command of the eternal God,
to bring about the obedience of faith-
to the only wise God,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the 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 engaged to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came to Mary and said,
"Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favour with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great,
and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.

"And now,
your relative Elizabeth in her old age
has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

For nothing will be impossible with God."
Then Mary said,
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.