

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2017



THE LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹When the king was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look! I'm living in a cedar palace, but God's chest is housed in a tent!"

³Nathan said to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the LORD is with you."

⁴But that very night the LORD's word came to Nathan: ⁵Go to my servant David and tell him: This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. ⁶In fact, I haven't lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt until now. Instead, I have been traveling around in a tent and in a dwelling. ⁷Throughout my traveling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel's tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven't you built me a cedar temple?

⁸So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the LORD of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. ⁹I've been with you wherever you've gone, and I've eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. ¹⁰I'm going to provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, ¹¹when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

And the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make a dynasty for you. . . .

¹⁶Your dynasty and your kingdom will be secured forever before me. Your throne will be established forever.

THE RESPONSE Luke 1:47-55

⁴⁷In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

⁴⁸He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored

⁴⁹because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name.

⁵⁰He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

⁵²He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

THE EPISTLE Romans 16:25-27

²⁵May the glory be to God who can strengthen you with my good news and the message that I preach about Jesus Christ. He can strengthen you with the announcement of the secret that was kept quiet for a long time. ²⁶Now that secret is revealed

through what the prophets wrote. It is made known to the Gentiles in order to lead to their faithful obedience based on the command of the eternal God. ²⁷May the glory be to God, who alone is wise! May the glory be to him through Jesus Christ forever! Amen.

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

²⁶When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. ³¹Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David

his father. ³³He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

³⁴Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

³⁵The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. ³⁶Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. ³⁷Nothing is impossible for God."


³⁸Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

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MOVING TOWARD THE
MANGER

SURELY I AM COMING SOON. AMEN.
COME, LORD JESUS!
REVELATION 22:20



ADVENT, WEEK FOUR:
COME, LORD JESUS!

Melody.....Consolation CM

P As we prepare during this Advent season to celebrate Jesus' birth, we also look forward to his Second Advent. We light the fourth candle as we await the day when Jesus will come again in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords.

(Four candles are lit.)

The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.

- P** Even as we wait for our King, we often rebel against his lordship.
- C** **Lord Jesus, forgive us for turning from your Word and ways and seeking instead to rule our own lives. Forgive us and rule over us in love.**

- P** And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars,
- C** **And on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,**
- P** People fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- C** **And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**
- P** Now when these things begin to take place,
- C** **Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**
- P** He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

**Daily Bible Readings for the
Fourth Week of Advent**

Sunday.....	Acts 1:6-11
Monday	2 Peter 3:8-13
Tuesday.....	Luke 21:25-28
Wednesday.....	Matthew 25:31-40
Thursday.....	Daniel 7:13-14
Friday.....	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Saturday	Revelation 21:1-4

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