

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 22, 2018



THE LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

When 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. ¹²When the time comes for you to die and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your descendant—one of your very own children—to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He will build a temple for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to me.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 89:20-37

²⁰I discovered my servant David. I anointed him with my holy oil.

²¹My hand will sustain him—yes, my arm will strengthen him!

²²No enemy will oppress him; no wicked person will make him suffer.

²³I will crush all his foes in front of him. I will strike down all those who hate him.

²³My faithfulness and my loyal love will be with him. He will be strengthened by my name.

²⁴I will set his hand on the sea. I will set his strong hand on the rivers.

²⁵He will cry out to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock of my salvation."

²⁶Yes, I'll make him the one born first—I'll make him the high king of all earth's kings.

²⁷I will always guard my loyal love toward him. My covenant with him will last forever.

²⁸I will establish his dynasty for all time. His throne will last as long as heaven does.

²⁹But if his children ever abandon my Instruction, stop following my rules—

³⁰if they treat my statutes like dirt, stop keeping my commandments—

³¹then I will punish their sin with a stick, and I will punish their wrongdoing with a severe beating.

³²But even then I won't withdraw my loyal love from him. I won't betray my faithfulness.

³³I won't break my covenant. I won't renege on what crossed my lips.

³⁴By my own holiness I've sworn one thing: I will not lie to David.

³⁵His dynasty will last forever. His throne will be like the sun, always before me.

³⁶It will be securely established forever; like the moon, a faithful witness in the sky.

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called "uncircumcised" by Jews who are physically circumcised. ¹²At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and

no God. ¹³But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. ¹⁵He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one

new person out of the two groups, making peace. ¹⁶He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

¹⁷When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. ¹⁸We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. ¹⁹So now you are no longer strangers and

aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. ²⁰As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. ²²Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. ³¹Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." ³²They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

³³Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. ³⁴When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were

like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

³⁵When Jesus and his disciples had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret, anchored the boat, ³⁶and came ashore. People immediately recognized Jesus ³⁷and ran around that whole region bringing sick people on their mats to wherever they heard he was. ³⁸Wherever he went—villages, cities, or farming communities—they would place the sick in the marketplaces and beg him to allow them to touch even the hem of his clothing. Everyone who touched him was healed.