

## Readings for Sunday, December 20, 2020

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

### First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b12, 14a, 16 (11B)

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

**R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;

through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.

For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

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

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant:

Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

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

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.'

Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

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

### Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel: Luke 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." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, 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, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "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 called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## **Profession of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(At the words that follow, up to and including "and became man", all bow.)*

And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and  
his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the  
resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

## **Prayers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Protection from the Coronavirus**

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.  
At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that,  
as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will  
and to do what Jesus tells us: He who taught us to "love one another,  
as I have loved you"

took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows  
to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and  
minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

**V.** We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

**R.** Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.