

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

7:1a, 2, 4-7, 12, 14a, 17

After the ruler, David, was settled in his palace, he confessed his concern to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

But that night the word of God came to Nathan, saying:

“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what God says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I called to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar? Now, when your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, your own flesh and blood, through whom I will establish a dynasty. It will be that one who will build a house for my Name; and I will establish that reign and house forever. I will be the mother of the one I raise up. I will be the father, and the one-to-come will be my child.”’

Nathan reported all the words of this revelation to David.

The Word of an Israelite court historian.

Thanks be to God.

Readings for the 3rd Sunday in Advent, December 17, 2017

PSALM

Isaiah 61:1-3b, 10-11

The psalm refrain is: The Spirit has anointed one to bring Good News.

R: The Spirit has anointed one to bring Good News.

The Spirit of the Exalted One is upon me,
for God has anointed me, sending me:
to bring good news to those who are poor;
to heal broken hearts;
to proclaim release to those held captive
and liberation to those in prison;
to announce a year of favor from God,
and the day of God's vindication;

R: The Spirit has anointed one to bring Good News.

The Spirit of God has anointed me:
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who grieve in Zion;
to give them a wreath of flowers instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of tears,
a cloak of praise instead of mourning and despair.

R: The Spirit has anointed one to bring Good News.

I will rejoice heartily in God; in God is the joy of my soul.
For God has clothed me with a robe of integrity,
wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with jewels.

As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will God make justice and praise
spring up before all peoples of the earth.

R: The Spirit has anointed one to bring Good News.

SECOND READING

A Reading from Paul's 1st Letter to the Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the desire of God's heart for you in Jesus the Christ. Do not quench the spirit nor despise prophetic utterances. Test everything. Retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of Peace make you complete, holy; May the God of all make you whole. And may you be preserved entirely blameless in spirit, soul, and body at the coming of Jesus the Christ. The One who calls you is faithful and will accomplish it in you.

The Word of the Apostle Paul.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young maiden betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the House of David. The maiden's name was Mary. The messenger came to her and said, "Hail, favored one! God is with you." Mary was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this sort of greeting might mean. The messenger said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a child, whom you will name, 'Jesus'."

Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I do not yet know man?" The messenger said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Holy One will cover you with its shadow, and so the child will be holy, and be called One Born of God." And I tell you this too, your cousin Elizabeth, in her old age, has conceived. She, whom people called barren, is now in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible for God."

Then Mary said, "Here I am, a servant of God. It shall be with me according to your Word." Then the messenger departed from her.

The Gospel of our God

Praise be to you, Jesus the Christ