

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**December 13, 2020**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16**

**Luke 1: 26-38**

**Romans 16: 25-27**

**1. 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16**

- Vv. 1-2: David has defeated all his enemies and now lives in a palace. He decides that it is time to build a “house” or a temple for the Lord. At first the prophet Nathan tells David to go ahead with his plans for “the Lord is with him.”
- Vv. 3-7: That night Nathan has a vision—a communication from God. God tells Nathan to tell David that he has never desired a temple for he has always dwelt in a tent. David will no build a house (temple) for God. God will build a house (a dynasty) for him.
- Vv. 8-11: Through the mouth of Nathan, God reviews the history of his relationship with David. He called him from the shepherd’s field; he defeated all his enemies; he will make his name great; he will care for and preserve Israel; he will protect them from all their enemies.
- Vv. 12: Now he will establish a royal dynasty for David; his son will succeed him on the throne; his Son, Solomon, will build the temple; the royal house of David will last forever; the relationship between God and the kings will be that of a father and son. If the king disobeys God, he will be punished but God will never disrupt the royal line as he did with Saul. David’s royal house will last forever.

**2. Luke 1: 26-38**

- **The Annunciation of the Birth of Jesus to Mary by Gabriel**
- Vv. 26-27: The setting: In the sixth month, by Archangel Gabriel (“God is my strength”), in the town of Nazareth of Galilee, to Mary, who was a virgin, and engaged to Joseph of the House of David.
- V. 28: The greeting: Hail, favored one=full of grace. Mary is chosen not because of anything she has done but because of the favor—the grace—the free gift—that God has shown her. The Lord is with you=God is on your side.
- V. 29: Mary is confused by the greeting and does not know what to make of it.
- V. 30: Gabriel says, “Do not be afraid.” Whenever God comes near to a person, it is always said, “Do not be afraid.” There is no need for fear when God is present. No need for fear because Mary has found favor with God. God is pleased with her.
- V. 31: The heart of the message: You will give birth to a child named Jesus
- V. 32: The child will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. Compare that John the Baptist will be called “prophet of the Most High.”

(v. 76). He will receive the throne of David his father. He will be Son of David through Joseph. He is the fulfillment of the promise of an everlasting dynasty made to David. He will rule forever and his Kingdom will have no end.

- V. 34-35: Mary asks how this will happen since she has not had sexual relations. Mary is a virgin. The child will be born of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the child will be the holy Son of God.
- V. 36-37: The angel gives a sign to show that his word is trustworthy just as Zachariah received a sign—he was unable to speak until the birth of the child. Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, who is beyond the age of childbearing, is also with child and in her sixth month. If God can make Elizabeth give birth, so can he make Mary give birth by the Holy Spirit. For nothing will be impossible for God.
- V. 38: Mary's answer: Yes: I am the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word. "Fiat"=let it be done. Mary is a model of faith. She says yes to an uncertain and unknown future solely on trust in God.
- We consider Mary a model of discipleship because she says Yes to God's will and she gives flesh and blood to his Word. We desire to say Yes to God's plan for us in faith and trust. By our actions we make God's word flesh and blood, i.e., put his word into action.

### **3. Romans 16: 25-27**

- This is a doxology= a prayer of praise
- Vv. 25: God strengthens us by the Gospel (Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus and his message of healing and mercy) and the proclamation of Jesus Christ. The Good News needs to be proclaimed—announced to the whole world. The Gospel is revelation=it comes from God and not from us. It is the revelation of *the mystery kept secret for long ages*. God had a plan that he was working out slowly and deliberately through the ages. Like the promise made to David and fulfilled in Jesus. The mystery is our justification and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
- V. 26: This mystery has been made known to us through the prophets. God has commanded that it be made known to the whole world both Jew and Gentile alike. This will bring about the obedience of faith. It is in our faith in Jesus that we find salvation.
- V. 27: God is the only wise one=his wisdom is greater than human wisdom. All glory is given to God through Jesus the Christ forever and ever.