

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Responsorial: Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The preparations are set, or at least as best as possible. I am speaking about Christmas, right? No, not really. Christmas Eve is today! As I prepared to scour the readings for a theme that would lead me to a connecting thought for the day, I figured it would come down to this. How am I going to summarize the final preparation for the coming of the infant Jesus? I hoped I would see something that would offer a fresh perspective.

The readings for the final Sunday of Advent do speak to preparation and celebration. They don't profess the coming of the baby Jesus; rather they speak to preparing to honor our Lord.

In the first reading from 2 Samuel, it speaks of King David and the peace and comfort he had found in Jerusalem and how he wanted to build a temple for the Ark of God.

The Lord spoke to Nathan the prophet and told him that David did not need to be in charge of everything, but was reminded that God himself had been with him on every step of the way to peace. God himself will take care of his house, like everything else that David had succeeded in doing. We too, are not in charge of our successes, it is better for us to let the Lord lead us and prepare us for the work in his house.

The Responsorial Psalm speaks of the greatness and goodness of God who leads us and guides us to him by our faithfulness and trust. Our preparation is not just for Christmas; it's for our coming to faith and eternity with our God.

The theme of preparation continues in the second reading. In this case, Paul boldly speaks to the Romans stating that our strength and preparation is not accomplished by ourselves, but through the power of God. Thus we are always preparing for the Lord's coming by His power and might.

The Gospel from Luke reminds us of the Angel Gabriel and his visit to Mary in Nazareth. Here Luke conveys all of the steps and acceptance of the Mother of God. The preparation of the Virgin Mary--just like we are attempting to do in our lives—is to prepare for an eternal reward by trusting in the Lord's plan for each of us.

It is Christmas Eve and the preparation for Christmas is complete; but the preparation for eternal life with our Father in Heaven is something we need to strive for every day. I feel it is God's hope for us to prepare each day for His birthday on earth so we are ready for our birthday into heaven.

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