**Notes for Next Sunday**

Fourth Sunday in Advent

OLD TESTAMENT – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

**After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,  2 he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.” 3 Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.” 4 That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: 5 “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?  6 I have not dwelt 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.  7 Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ 8 “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel.  9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth.  10 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning  11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. ”‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”**

This is God’s great promise to David. Although it is not expressly called a covenant here, it is elsewhere, and David responds with language suggesting his recognition that a covenant had been made. (CSB)

V. 1 *After the king was settled in his palace.* For so much of his life David had been caught up in the business of war and fighting. A courageous warrior, he had carried out some of the most successful military campaigns in Israel’s history. But now he found himself in a unique situation, at least as far as his life was concerned. David experienced a time of rest and peace. (PBC)

V. 7 *did I ever say … “Why have you not built me a house … ?”* David misunderstood the Lord’s priorities. He reflected the pagan notion that the gods were interested in human beings only as builders and maintainers of their temples and as practitioners of their cult. Instead, the Lord had raised up rulers in Israel only to shepherd his people (that is also why he had brought David “from the pasture,” v. 8). (CSB)

David is not to build him a house (temple); rather, God will build David a house (royal dynasty) that will last forever (v. 16). God has been building Israel ever since the days of Abraham, and now he commits Himself to build David’s royal house so that the promise to Israel may be fulfilled—rest in the Promised Land. It is God’s building that effects His kingdom. This covenant with David is unconditional, like those with Noah, Abram, grounded only in God’s firm and gracious purpose. It finds its ultimate fulfillment in the kingship of Christ, who was born of the tribe of Judah and the house of David. (CSB)

GOSPEL – Luke 1:26-38

**﻿26﻿ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ﻿27﻿ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ﻿28﻿ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ﻿29﻿ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ﻿30﻿ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ﻿31﻿ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ﻿32﻿ He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ﻿33﻿ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” ﻿34﻿ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” ﻿35﻿ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called﻿a﻿ the Son of God. ﻿36﻿ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ﻿37﻿ For nothing is impossible with God.” ﻿38﻿ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.**

This section speaks clearly of the virginal conception of Jesus. The conception was the work of the Holy Spirit; the eternal Christ, while remaining God, also “became flesh” (Jn 1:14). From conception he was fully God and fully man. (CSB)

Jesus is the culmination of the Davidic line. All the promises of God in the OT are now coming to fulfillment in Christ. The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Is 9:6–7) is reflected in the words “the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will be King over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Lk 1:32–33). The royal line of the kingdom of Judah, prophesied by Jacob in Gen 49:10ff., merges with the royal line of David that comes in 2 Sam 7:16: “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.” Despite David’s sin, and the sin of all those in his human royal succession, God’s redemptive plan will be accomplished through his Descendent. Jesus will reign over the house of David, for the royal messianic succession will continue forever in him. (CC)

V. 27 *pledged to be married.* Jewish betrothal was binding in ways that modern engagements are not. Betrothal usually preceded marriage by at least nine months to assure that the bride was not pregnant. The young man would give the bride’s family a gift. The fathers of the families would sign a marriage document. (TLSB)

V. 34 *How will this be … ?* In contrast to Zechariah’s skeptical question (v 18), Mary wonders in faith. Zechariah walked away unable to speak, but Mary burst forth into holy song (vv 46–55) after Gabriel’s departure. (TLSB)