Year B – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Dec. 20, 2026

His reign shall be established forever…

OPENING PRAYER (*excerpts from Psalm 89***):**



Leader: Forever I will sing of the goodness of the Lord. I will sing of your steadfast love O Lord forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

All: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever, your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: You said, I have made a covenant with my chosen one. I have sworn to my servant David: I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.

All: He shall cry to me, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation! Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm. Amen

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16.

Our Sunday readings for the final week of Advent focus on the birth of Jesus. They do so in a way that reverses human expectations. In the first reading, David decides he will build a house (temple) for God. However, God says no to this and instead assures David that God will build David "a house" that will last forever. We witness this promise fulfilled in the humility and obedience of a young woman, and the birth of a saviour.

1. What does David's plan to build a temple reveal about David's relationship with God?
2. How are God's promises for David much greater than David could have envisioned?
3. Recall a time when you experienced a "no" to your plans, then found that your life took an unexpected turn through God's promise and providence. What was it like to give up control of your plans?

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In today's second reading Paul describes the plan that Christ has entrusted to the beginnings of the Christian mission. Paul challenges believers to evangelize and to do so in a redemptive spirit.

1. Paul's letter calls to mind the generations of prophets who have waited in faithfulness for the coming of the promised one. What Advent message do Paul's words speak to you, and how will you bring the light of Christ to all this Advent season?

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The answer the people longed for came in an unexpected way, with the Archangel Gabriel appearing to Mary. That she was asked to be the mother of God was an idea beyond Mary's understanding, but once she was satisfied that this truly was God's will, she said "Yes," and lived that "Yes" all her life.

1. How is Mary, as presented in this passage, a model for us all?
2. Mary heard and responded to God's will through the message of an angel. Who are God's messengers in your life?
3. How does Mary's reply in vs. 38 sum up her life? How does this verse challenge us?
4. What comfort does this passage offer as we struggle to give birth to Christ in our lives?

Living the Word
Take some quiet time to reflect on your deepest desire for this Christmas season. Make a present of your time to someone who has recently suffered an unexpected loss or turn of events in his/her life.

Praying the Word
Let us pray, that like Mary we become open to pondering and receiving the will of God in our Lives, saying yes when called upon.

Invite personal intentions, ending with, "Our Father…"

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
All: And she conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Hail Mary, Full of Grace, Blessed are You Among Women and Blessed is the Fruit of Your Womb, Jesus …
All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us Sinners, Now and at the Hour of Our Death.

Leader: Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
All: Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Leader: Hail Mary, Full of Grace, Blessed are You Among Women and Blessed is the Fruit of Your Womb, Jesus …
All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us Sinners, Now and at the Hour of Our Death.

Leader: And the Word was made flesh,
All: And dwelt among us.

Leader Hail Mary, Full of Grace, Blessed are You Among Women and Blessed is the Fruit of Your Womb, Jesus …
All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us Sinners, Now and at the Hour of Our Death… AMEN.
Leader: Let us share with one another the sign of peace.