

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

God Will Build His House

On this final Sunday of Advent we send up a hymn of praise to our God. That is what Paul is doing in the final verses of the Letter to the Romans. It is a benediction. "...To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen." Following on Paul's hymn we are to proclaim the endless mystery of God.

In 2 Samuel, King David promises to build God a house (for the ark of God). But God turns that notion around. He will build the house. It will be God's people. He will dwell among them. "...I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance."

Remember, God has kept all his promises already. Now through Mary our Savior was born! Mary said yes. We, God's people, are grateful to her for her yes. As I see it besides the gift of the messiah God gives Mary the gift of courage. The angel tells her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." She would need courage all the rest of her life.

As I see it Mary fills more than one role in this story. She is the perfect vessel for our Lord to be born. Second, she stands as representative of all of us who are the Church. She is Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven. Through her God keeps the promise to make his house among us.

It does all sound impossible. Does it not? For our earth-bound minds it is difficult to fathom. Even Mary questions. She questions in order to gain understanding. But she does not doubt God's power and wisdom. The angel explains and then says, "for nothing will be impossible for God."

Thus, God said he would make His home among us and now he does. This was a long time after God first spoke of it in 2 Samuel. One might ask, "what took you so long God?"

What takes so long is the human response. It takes us time to build the evidence God has been working his way into our lives. He gives us time to observe and accept him. It takes one step at a time toward salvation. Navigating through challenges is just that way.

In this last week of Advent begin to decorate for the first coming of Jesus Christ. The Feast of the Nativity of

Our Lord is near! Christmas is almost here. Celebrate Christmas again. We have encountered much by way of challenges. Pause now and celebrate what we do have. Reach out to someone who has too little to celebrate with. And even as we may be alone and separated, we are not alone because God has made his home among us. God is in your house and my house and everyone's house.

Trust in the Lord. Just jump in with faith. There is nothing to lose. Say yes to God and the courage will flow into your house as it did for Mary.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
Consult an on-line Ordo for the many different readings suggested for Christmas.

STEWARDSHIP	
Time, Talent, Tithing	
Attendance last week:	224
Tithes Collected:	\$5,077.00
Online Giving:	\$677.00
Total:	\$6,437.00
2nd Collection for Retirement	
Fund for Religious:	\$677.00
Immaculate Conception Of the Blessed Virgin Mary:	\$636.00
Thank You!	

Christmas Liturgy Schedule
December 24th
4:00pm. Vigil
11:00pm Mass During the Night

December 25th
10:45am Mass During the Day

All visitors are welcome for the Holy Day!
Please wear a mask. We will sanitize your hands when you arrive. You will place your donation in the wood boxes that are in the center isle next to the pews. Then you will seat yourself in a seat with a blue mark. Extra seating is in the chapel and hall.

LITURGY FOR DECEMBER 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!
O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem, from eve'ry foe deliver them that trust thy might pow'r to save, and give them victo'ry o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Come, Thou Day spring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all humankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our Prince of Peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 89: FOREVER I WILL SING, THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD /D. Pérez-Cuan)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

OFFERTORY HYMN: Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is Near/E.Sands. P.Lee

//Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is near.

Alleluia, alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is near//

1. Sound the trumpet, the Lord is near; Hurry, the Lord is near; see, he comes to save us all. Hurry the Lord is near!
2. Earth has longed for his approach: Hurry, the Lord is near; straighten the road, smooth the path. Hurry the Lord is near!
3. Go out to meet him, shout his name: Hurry, the Lord is near; his mighty kingdom shall never end. Hurry the Lord is near!
4. He is the mighty one, he is the Word: Hurry, the Lord is near; God everlasting, Prince of Peace. Hurry the Lord is near!

COMMUNION HYMN: (The Whole World is Waiting for Love/M. Misetich)

"Come down, Lord Jesus! Come quickly, Lord Jesus! The whole world is waiting for Love, the whole world is waiting for love"

1. We're waiting for Jesus like Mary, We're waiting for Jesus the Lord.
2. We're laying a manger for Mary, a manger for Jesus the Lord.
3. We're making it lovely for Mary, so lovely for Jesus the Lord.

POST COMMUNION HYMN: Gentle Woman/C.Landry
//Gentle Woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love//

1. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you amongst women and blest is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of

God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

2. You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the son. You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one.
3. Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too. Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: (O Come, Divine Messiah)

"Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away".

1. O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.
2. O Christ, whom nations sigh for, whom priest and prophet long foretold, come, break the captive's fetters, redeem the long lost fold.
3. You come in peace and meekness and lowly will your cradle be; all clothed in human weakness shall we your Godhead see.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 19

- 4:00 p.m. † Mary Stupi by Joanne Adamik
† Winifred & Thomas Casey by Elizabeth Scott

Sunday, December 20

- 9:00 a.m. † Helen Lalewicz by Crepages
10:45 a.m. † Kevin Siefker by Siefker Family
† Robin Selbach by Elaine & Eric Hall

Monday, December 21

- 8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, December 22

- 8:00 a.m. † Phil Kitkowski by Tom & Mary Hardy

Wednesday, December 23

- 8:00 a.m. † Mickey Bonner by Pat Burton

Thursday, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
11:00 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Friday, December 25

- 10:45 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Saturday, December 26

- 4:00 p.m. † Edward Ulmann & Dr. Hubert Alan Faulk by Doreen & Brice

Sunday, December 27

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Rene P. Llerandi by Dan Perez
† Robin Selbach by Elaine & Eric Hall