

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- 1) 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
- 2) Romans 16:25-27
- 3) Luke 1:26-38

FOCUS: God is the font of all blessings and salvation.

Today's readings make evident the goodness of the Lord, and that he is the source of all blessings. The Lord promises to build a house for David – one that will last forever. And from the lineage of David comes Jesus, God himself, to dwell among us. He is our shelter, our bodies are his temple, and his kingdom endures forever. We will soon celebrate the feast of his Incarnation and Nativity, while awaiting still, with joyful hope, the time when he will come again.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, David ruminates on building a house for the Lord. However, the Lord reminds David how he has favored him and states that it is God who will build a house for David. In the second reading, Paul gives glory to Christ, acknowledging the prophets and wisdom through the ages that have all participated in this revelation. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel announces that Mary will conceive a son – the Son of God – and Mary accepts the honor, saying, *may it be done to me according to your word.*

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: As we prepare for the coming of the Lord, we offer to God our prayers for ourselves and for the world.

- 1) For the Church, may the Lord continue to help her grow in humble witness to his glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For peace and harmony in all nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are suffering extreme pain or fear, may Christ the Divine Physician calm them and grant them peace of mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this assembly, may Jesus strengthen us as we seek to build God's kingdom here on earth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have died in the light of faith, may they forever praise the Lord in heaven with all the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father of all creation, as we conclude our Advent journey, we humbly offer you our prayers through your Son, Christ our Lord.