

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24 2023
Order of Service Readings and Prayer

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

THE GATHERING

Welcome	
Prelude	
*Confession and Forgiveness	p. 94
*Hymn <i>“O Come All Ye Faithful”</i>	No. 283
*Greeting & Kyrie	p. 138
*Canticle of Praise	p. 139
*Prayer of the Day	Insert
<i>Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle</i>	

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading –	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
Psalm 89 (read responsively)	Insert
Second Reading	Romans 16:25-27
*The Gospel Acclamation	p. 142
*Holy Gospel	Luke 1:26-38
Children’s Message	Rev. Tim Kneuss
Children’s Church	

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Message	Rev. Tim Kneuss
*Hymn <i>“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”</i>	No. 271
*The Apostles’ Creed	back of hymnal
* Blessing of Offerings	
*The Prayers of Intercession	p. 143
P: Merciful God,	
C: receive our prayer.	
*The Lord’s Prayer - Traditional	p. 145

SENDING

Parish Announcements	
*The Blessing	p. 146
*Sending Song <i>“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”</i>	No. 270
*The Dismissal	p. 146



Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

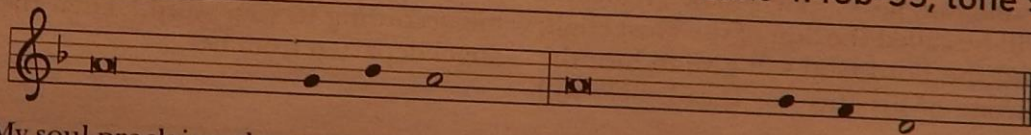
Now when [David] the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of

cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Psalmody

Luke 1:46b-55; tone 9



My soul proclaims the greatness
¹of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in ¹ God
my Savior,
⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with
favor on your ¹ lowly servant.

From this day all generations will
¹ call me blessed;
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great
¹ things for me,
and holy ¹ is your name.
⁵⁰You have mercy on
¹ those who fear you,

continued

Psalmody, continued

from generation to | generation.

⁵¹You have shown strength
| with your arm;
and scattered the proud in
| their conceit,

⁵²casting down the mighty
| from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.

⁵³You have filled the hungry
| with good things,



and sent the rich | away empty.
⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your
| servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise
of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his
chil- | dren forever.

or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 [not printed]

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the pro-

phetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will

reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

TODAY'S READINGS December 24, 2023

Volume 55, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org.

4 of 14
Tracks 1 and 2