Sunday, December 20, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

Collect of the Day (Contemporary)

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Readings and Psalms

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his
enemies around him, 2 the 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." 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you
have in mind; for the Lord is with you."
4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5 Go and tell my servant
David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6 I 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. 7 Wherever 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?" 8 Now 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;
9 and 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. 10 And
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,
11 from 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.
16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be
established forever.

Psalm (first alternate): Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

25 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
26 but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the
Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of
faith— 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's
name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with
you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this
might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.
32 He 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. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of
his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a
virgin?" 35 The 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. [36]And 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. [37]For nothing will be impossible with God." [38]Then 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.