

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

Let it be done to me according to your word!

2Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Psalm 89:2-5,27,29 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

King David is given rest from his enemies and tells the prophet Nathan of his desire to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant. God tells Nathan that instead there will be established a house for David and the kingdom will remain firm and endure forever. An heir will be raised up and he shall be a son to the Lord.

The psalmist sings his praises to the Lord whose promises and kindness are forever. God's faithfulness is confirmed in heaven and a covenant is made with David. David, the chosen servant, will refer to God as father, his personal savior, the Rock.

Paul proclaims that Jesus Christ is a mystery revealed and now manifested in the prophetic writings. This has been kept secret for ages but now made known to all nations, according to God's command.

The angel Gabriel is sent to Mary betrothed to Joseph of the house of David. She is troubled by the visitor but is told not to be afraid for she will conceive a son to be called Jesus. He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High and this will be done by the power of the Holy Spirit.



The Father's power from on high,  
Calls forth his Son,  
As the Holy Spirit's power came to rest upon Mary.

Today's readings remind us that the coming of the Son of the Most High was prophesied by the Scriptures. The prophet Nathan notes that the heir to David's covenant will be of the House of David. This chosen servant will recognize God as Father and is conceived as the power of the Holy Spirit overshadows Mary. Let us be thankful that even now Jesus is in our midst.



The "yes" of our Blessed Mother gave Jesus a welcoming place to stay. How does this mystery go living among us? When we receive the Eucharist we too say yes to Jesus and continually bring him to rebirth within us. His presence will overcome our resistance to fulfill his will and bring hope and power to overcome the attractions of the world. The changes we encounter in this way gives witness to the unique intensity of life that Christ brings to us.

<http://melkaplace.com>