Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

The Collect:

Rite I:
We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Rite II:
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.

Old Testament: 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: Canticle 3 or Canticle 15 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

or

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

or

[1] Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
[2] For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
[3] "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
[4] 'I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
[19] You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
[20] I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
[21] My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.
[22] No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.
[23] I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.
[24] My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
[25] I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.

26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Epistle: 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.

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