

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a God's promise to David (*HCSB*)

¹The king moved into his palace. The LORD had given him peace and rest from all his enemies around him. ²Then the king spoke to Nathan the prophet. He said, "Here I am, living in a house that has beautiful cedar walls. But the ark of God remains in a tent." ³Nathan replied to the king, "Go ahead and do what you want to. The LORD is with you." ⁴But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. The LORD said, ⁵"Go and speak to My servant David. Tell him, 'The LORD says, "Are you the one to build Me a house to live in? ⁶I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt. But I have not lived in a house from then until now. I have been moving from place to place. I have been living in a tent. ⁷I have moved from place to place with all the Israelites. I commanded their rulers to be shepherds over them. I never asked any of those rulers, 'Why haven't you built Me a house that has beautiful cedar walls?' " ' ⁸"So tell my servant David, 'The LORD who rules over all says, "I took you away from the grasslands. That's where you were taking care of your father's sheep and goats. I made you ruler over My people Israel. ⁹I have been with you everywhere you have gone. I have destroyed all your enemies. Now I will make you famous. Your name will be just as respected as the names of the most important people on earth. ¹⁰I will provide a place where My people Israel can live. I will plant them in the land. Then they will have a home of their own. They will not be bothered anymore. Evil people will no longer crush them, as they did at first. ¹¹That is what your enemies have done ever since I appointed leaders over My people Israel. But I will give you peace and rest from all of them. " " "I tell you that I, the LORD, will set up a royal house for you. ¹²Some day your life will come to an end. You will join the members of your family who have already died. Then I will make one of your own sons the next king after you. And I will make his kingdom secure. ¹³He is the one who will build a house where I will put My Name. I will set up the throne of his kingdom. It will last forever. ¹⁴I will be his father. And he will be My son.

PSALM: Psalm 89:20-37 (*NIRV*)

²⁰I have found My servant David. I have poured My sacred oil on his head. ²¹My powerful hand will keep him going. My mighty arm will give him strength. ²²No enemy will have the victory over him. No evil person will treat him badly. ²³I will crush the king's enemies. I will completely destroy them. ²⁴I will love him and be faithful to him. Because of Me his power will increase. ²⁵I will give him a great kingdom. It will reach from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River. ²⁶He will call out to Me, 'You are my Father. You are my God. You are my Rock and Saviour.' ²⁷I will also make him My oldest son. Among all the kings of the earth, he will be the most important one. ²⁸I will continue to love him forever. I will never break My covenant with him. ²⁹I will make his family line continue forever. His kingdom will last as long as the heavens. ³⁰"What if his sons turn away from My laws and do not follow them? ³¹What if they disobey My orders and fail to keep My commands? ³²Then I will punish them for their sins. I will strike them with a rod. I will whip them for their evil acts. ³³But I will not stop loving

David. I will always be faithful to him. ³⁴ I will not break My covenant. I will not go back on My word. ³⁵ Once and for all, I have made a promise. It is based on My holiness. And I will not lie to David. ³⁶ His family line will continue forever. His kingdom will last as long as the sun. ³⁷ It will last forever like the moon, that faithful witness in the sky.”

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:11-22 We are all one in Christ (EHV)

¹¹ Therefore, remember that at one time, you Gentiles in the flesh—the ones who are called “uncircumcised” by those called “the circumcised” (which is performed physically by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were separated from Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise. You were without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace. He made the two groups one by destroying the wall of hostility that divided them ¹⁵ when He abolished the law of commandments and regulations in His flesh. He did this to create in Himself one new person out of the two, in this way making peace. ¹⁶ And He did this to reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by putting the hostility to death on it ¹⁷ He also came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. ¹⁹ So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household. ²⁰ You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Cornerstone. ²¹ In Him the whole building is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-34,53-56 Jesus has compassion on the crowd (NRV)

³⁰ The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, ‘Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’ ³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³ But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things. ⁵³ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴ As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognised Jesus. ⁵⁵ They ran throughout that whole region and carried those who were ill on mats to wherever they heard He was. ⁵⁶ And wherever He went – into villages, towns or countryside – they placed those who were ill in the market-places. They begged Him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.