

December 21, 2014  
 Sermon for The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
 St Peter Lutheran Church  
 Bowie, TX  
 Larry Knobloch, Pastor  
 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

J.J.- Jesu Juva—Help me, Jesus

2 Samuel 7:1–11 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup> the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup> And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.” <sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’ <sup>6</sup> 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 for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup> In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ <sup>8</sup> 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> 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.

**2 Samuel 7:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ”

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Amen.

Good news!

Even for a king.

Even for a man who “has everything.”

In our text God is giving to David, who was king of Israel, news that was still brand new – and good indeed. Through the prophet Nathan, God is making a wonderful promise to David. This promise concerns one of David’s descendants, one of his distant grandsons, who, using biblical terms can be referred to as a “son of David.”

As we learn about this special descendant on the basis of God’s Word, our response is to PRAISE DAVID’S SON.

Why?                      We praise David’s Son because of who He is.

In our text, God is stating that He, God, will build a “house” for David.

“House” here does not mean a structure of wood and stone but rather a “dynasty.” God promises that He will make David’s dynasty perpetually endure, that kingship, and a kingdom, would forever be associated with his family line.

In that way, as God says, David’s “*throne*” would be “established forever.”

In the history of the ancient Near East, where Israel was located, there were many ruling houses, or dynasties, in various countries.

Each of these dynasties lasted for a period of time ... and then came to an end. Egypt. Assyria. Babylon.                      Each had its series of kings who led them to power and then were buried, as it were, in the passing sands of history.

Yet in God's promise to David, the concept of "*forever*" is strongly emphasized: "*your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me.*" (v. 16).

What was God saying to David?

God was saying that one of David's descendants would be no ordinary ruler. God was telling David that one of his family line, one of his sons, would be the Messiah, the promised Savior and deliverer.

The people of the Old Testament period knew, as we know today, that the Messiah would reign forever. His kingdom would never end. That is how kingship could, and would, be connected forever with the line of David.

We praise this special Son of David, then, because He is the Messiah, the Savior of the world, very God, the Son of God, who became man. Jesus Christ, according to his human nature, was an actual descendant of Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Judah *and* David, through the Virgin Mary.

It astounds us, and comforts us, that the Son of God became one of us – a flesh-and-blood human being – in order to be the Deliverer. He entered fully into this earthly existence, with its noises, smells, dirt, and sweat.

Jesus had a busy schedule – He experienced hunger, thirst, tiredness, and discomfort, as well as opposition and rejection. He thus knows what we go through in our daily lives; He understands our needs; He sympathizes with us in our times of difficulty. Praise David's Son!

We praise this Son of David not only because of who He is, but also because of what He has done. The Son of God became a descendant of David in fulfillment of the promise to David, *and* in order to be the world's Redeemer.

This God-man never once sinned. Rather, He took the sins of all people upon Himself.

These wrongs included those of His ancestor David. We know about David because of what has been recorded in Scripture. Although David was a great man of faith, he nevertheless was guilty of many sins, including adultery and murder.

The Messiah, Jesus Christ, likewise bore our transgressions.

Our sins have not been recorded for all to read about. Some of our wrongs may be known only to a few other people; some may be known only to us. But God knows about all of our violations of His holy will with our minds and words and actions.

The Gospel news is that the God-man, Christ Jesus, made full atonement for the sins of David, you, me, and the whole human race. As the bearer of the world's trespasses, He endured the penalty those sins deserved.

He paid the total ransom with His own suffering, His own blood, His own death. Then He arose from the dead, guaranteeing that the payment was complete and accepted by God, showing that nothing remained to be done for humanity's redemption.

The resurrection of Christ proved that He was indeed the Savior of the world and the Son of God. The apostle Paul wrote concerning Jesus that He "*was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead*" (Romans 1:3-4 NKJV).

Praise David's Son!

Besides praising the Son of David for who He is and what He has accomplished, we praise Him for His present and future activity.

This descendant of David is reigning, just as God foretold.

Our text, from 2 Samuel 7, is the background for a number of well-known Scripture passages, all of which Christ is fulfilling with His Kingship.

For example, the prophet Isaiah wrote in ch 9 of his book, *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given”* (v 6), and then he went on to predict, *“Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David”* (v 7 ESV).

As we heard in the Gospel, the angel Gabriel promised the Virgin Mary concerning the Son she was going to bear, *“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 father David”* (Lk 1:32 ESV)

Christ is reigning as a Successor of David, as the final Ruler of the House of David, but His kingdom is far greater than that of His ancestor David.

Christ’s kingdom consists of all believers, all who have faith in Him – both those here on earth and those in heaven. This kingdom is referred to in our New Testament era as the Christian Church. Further, Christ also the Monarch of the universe, is governing and controlling all things for the good of this spiritual kingdom, His Church.

The Son of David, Jesus Christ, brought us into His kingdom through His Gospel Word and Sacrament of Baptism. He keeps us in His kingdom – that is, He preserves us as believers in Him – through His Gospel Word and Sacrament of Holy Communion. What blessings do we enjoy as members of Christ’s kingdom?

What gifts does our King bestow on us due to His grace, His undeserved kindness?

Christ gives us the forgiveness of all of our sins. He bestows on us the saving righteousness that He acquired with His perfect life and innocent suffering and death. He grants us peace and fellowship with Himself and the Father and Holy Spirit.

He gives us His guidance during our earthly lives; He leads us as our Good Shepherd.

His care for us never ends. Remember, He entered fully into our earthly existence; He knows what we go through. In response to our prayers, He can and does give us the help we need, whether we are at home, at school, on vacation, or in the hospital. Our King will never leave nor forsake us, the members of His kingdom, whom he dearly loves.

Our King also bestows on us everlasting life. After our time in this world is finished, Christ will take us to the splendor of heaven.

As God indicated to David, his Son, the Messiah, our Savior, will reign forever. The Christian Church, Christ's kingdom, will never end.

On Judgment Day, when every other kingdom will vanish, Christ's kingdom—made up of you, me, and all believers—will endure.

It will continue forever in the glorious new creation which He will bring about on the Last Day. We will enjoy this new creation, in our resurrected, glorified bodies, which our King will give to us. How blessed we are to be members of Christ's kingdom!

God's wonderful promise to David is also good news for us.

David's Son is King!

His reign is everlasting!

Since we know who this Son of David is, what He has accomplished, and what He is doing and will do for us, what is our response?

We praise David's Son—Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria – To God alone be the glory*

### **Sermon Outline**

Praise David's Son.

- I. We praise David's Son because of who He is.
- II. We praise David's Son because of what He has done in the past.
- III. We praise David's Son because of His present and future activity.