

In Nomine Iesu

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Trinity 2
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Text: 2 Samuel 7:11b-16 (4-16)

But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,⁵ “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?”⁶ “For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.⁷ “Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes 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 shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.”⁹ “And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth.”¹⁰ “Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,¹¹ “since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.¹² “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ “He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.¹⁴ “I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.¹⁵ “But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.¹⁶ “And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.””

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ,

The text before us this morning has to do with the word “house.” It is used in several ways here, and a right understanding of this word will help us unravel this word of the Lord to King David.

David wants to build a “house” for the Lord. By this, David means to build the temple, an earthly structure in the way of our church building here. But God will not have David build such a “house” for Him. The temple will be built one day, but by David’s son Solomon, not David himself.

But God then tells David that He, God, will build a “house” for him, David. Now the Lord uses the word “house” not as a term for a building, but for family, descendants. God will provide David descendants that will continue after his own death.

Here also, we need to do a bit of unraveling. The promise to David is about two things. First, David will have a son and grandson, and so on, who will succeed him as

king of Israel. The family line of David will continue. But this line is not eternal. About 500 years after David's death there will be no one from David's "house" still ruling Israel.

However, we are told of another aspect of this "house" of David. Notice how it is that God describes this: there is a "seed" that will come from David, that is, a special descendant. God will establish His kingdom. He will build David's house. That throne will last forever. He will be the Son of God. This house and kingdom will be forever. With the carefully chosen vocabulary of this section of 2 Samuel, we learn about Someone greater than David, and yet Someone who will come as a descendant of David.

Now let's skip ahead about 30 centuries, from David to our time. In just a few minutes we will be singing part of the liturgy called the "Sanctus." We sing these words to confess the blessed coming of the Son of God among us, coming to us in the special way of the Sacrament of the Altar, His Body and His Blood, given and shed for us for the remission of sins, in the outward elements of bread and wine. What do we sing? We sing "hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Jesus is the Son of David. Jesus, the Son of God, through His birth via the virgin Mary, is the greater descendant of King David. It is Jesus who establishes the throne and kingdom of David forever. And this throne and kingdom are not earthly, they are spiritual.

What we are finally learning about here in 2 Samuel is the church, the one, holy, Christian and apostolic Church. The Christian Church is the kingdom of God, the gathering of God's people around His promises, the promises given to us through His Word and Sacraments. And, this is really the great feast about which Jesus told the parable we heard in the Gospel for today. One to which He invites all people, calling the poor and lame and maimed and blind, compelling those by the sides of the highways to come. In other words, this invitation to the Christian church is sent out around the world, regardless of our earthly citizenship. This kingdom, ruled by the grace of Jesus Christ, is the spiritual kingdom that God desires all to learn about and to become part of. "God desire all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

David's family line, his "house," would not look very compelling if judged by faithfulness to God's Word. David himself was an adulterer and murderer, saved only by

the grace of God. His son Solomon allowed idolatry to be practiced. His grandson Rehoboam was a proud and arrogant young man who ended up losing most of the kingdom due to his pride, and remaining king of only a remnant of what his grandfather had left for his descendants.

But it was from this line of sinners, people like you and me who fail, who are unfaithful, who doubt God's promises again and again, it was through this line, this "house," that God had decided to bring into the world the Savior from sin and its terrible consequence: eternal death.

The fact of eternal death deserved by us all, means that we need Someone who can counteract that eternity of damnation. That is what the great descendant of David did. That is what Jesus Christ accomplished for us. That is what the Christian church is about – baptizing in the name of the Triune God and teaching people all the teachings that Jesus left His church. Those teachings of Jesus are recorded for us in the Bible. It is the Word of God that gives us the promises from the God who does not lie to us, from the God who became one of us, so that He knows even what death is, yet not being defeated by it, but rising victorious over it, leaving death defeated, and opening the kingdom of heaven, the eternal kingdom, for us all. All who believe in this Jesus, this one of the House of David, have eternal life. That is God's word for you, and for all who come here to this humble place in which God has chosen to visit us with His Word, with the very Presence of His Body and Blood, given to us as a sure pledge and token of the forgiveness of our sins.

Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
This One is here for you, no matter your hurts, no matter your sorrows, no matter your sins. He is your Savior, forever.

Sin and death may well be groaning, Satan now may well be moaning;

We, our full salvation owning, Cast our ev'ry care away.

See how God, for us providing, Gave his Son and life abiding;

He our weary steps is guiding From earth's woe to heav'nly joy. Amen.

(ELH 128:2,3)