

## In Nomine Iesu

### The Second Sunday after Holy Trinity 2026

#### The kingdom of our promised Savior King is of God's design – 2 Samuel 7:4-16

“But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Would you build me a house to dwell in? 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. 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?”’ 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. 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. 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, 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. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’””

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Church's only Savior and Lord. Dear fellow redeemed in Christ:

If you don't read the Old Testament in the light of what God said to the serpent, “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel,” it will never make sense to you. The Old Testament will seem to be merely a collection of logically disconnected stories about Israel and the rules God laid down for them long ago, rules that in our day have little or no relevance to us and our times. The stories could be used as moralistic tales for teaching children, I suppose, much the same way as we use Greek and Roman mythology or Grimm's fairytales. But that is it. If, on the other hand, you take the word of God, seriously, that is, take God to be speaking not to a snake – after all that is nonsense, snakes cannot talk - but to Satan hiding behind and within the the person of the snake, promising to destroy him on account of his deceiving the man and woman in order to set mankind free of the terrible consequences of unbelief, sin, and death that came upon us all; then the Old Testament will make sense to you as it progressively opens your mind and heart to what God is actually saying to humanity. And then also the New Testament will be seen for what it is: The testament to God's faithfulness, the fulfillment of that first promise He made to us all: that He will redeem and save us.

#### I

Consider the text before us today. When David was established on his throne as king, living in his palace in the new capital city of Israel, Jerusalem, he wanted to build a

house, a temple, for the God of Israel. But God said to him through the prophet Nathan: “Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD **will make you a house**. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” In other words, you cannot and will not make a house for Me. But I will make a house for you.

This is not just a story about King David and the nation of Israel disconnected from the promise in Genesis. No. It must be read in light of the promise God gave to mankind in Eden after the fall into sin. King David was no more going to build a house for himself, that is, an enduring dynasty that would bear his name forever, than Eve was going to crush the head of serpent herself and restore God’s good and perfect creation. Neither the promise spoken in the hearing of Adam and Eve nor the promise made to King David concerned this life alone. And neither pointed to the ability of man to solve the problem he had brought on himself. No, both accounts, that of Adam and Eve and that of King David go much deeper than just life as we know it ... and death, as we know it. We must look at each story, each book of the Old Testament, in that light.

We have had many funerals and graveside committals here at Parkland. What is more, we have never known any of our friends and neighbors to be exempt from what God’s word identifies as the penalty of sin, death. We all live our lives in its shadow, a shadow that casts itself lightly, almost unnoticeably, over us in our younger years, but takes on greater and darker reality as we get older. This certainly would have been true for our first parents at the dawn of creation, and more starkly felt when Cain killed his brother and they got their first look at the ugliness, horror, and finality of death. It would have been true of David as he took the throne after the death of Saul in the days of Israel’s youth, but felt by him still more keenly and painfully as his sons rebelled against him one after the other striving to replace him as king, not realizing that the kingdom their father David treasured was not of this world, of this life.

## II

After he’d become king and moved into the palace built for him, David said to Nathan, the prophet of God, “‘See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.’ And Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.’” (2 Samuel 7:2-3) Our text for today picks it up right there: “But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Would you build me a house to dwell in? 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. 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?”’””

David was thinking of God like a man, a fallen man, and Nathan the prophet the same. Man has a tendency to assume things about God and what He desires, and then act accordingly. He is usually wrong. Having been in Egypt, it is evident that this true of man in general. Let me give you an example.

In the city of Luxor is the Karnak temple built over the course of about 2000 years for the chief god of the ancient Egyptians, Amun. It is connected to the Luxor temple built for his supposed consort, the goddess Mut. When I say it is connected, do not think that one is right next door to the other. They are connected by a wide stone-paved road **2½ miles long**, still intact. The road is lined on each side by larger-than-life stone statues of sphinxes and rams (the symbol of Amun), each about 5 meters from the other. In other

words, thousands of statues lining the 2½ mile stretch. The road was intended for the goddess to visit the god when summoned by him. In other words, the ancient Egyptians envisioned the gods as human-like in their behavior, but larger than life. The degree of their devotion to this foolishness can be seen in the millions of tons of stone and billions of hours of labor put into fashioning them and setting them in place.

David too, as close as he was to God by faith, still thought like a man. We all tend to think this way, and need the instruction of the word of God to correct us. That said, back to David: The God of Israel should have a house, a temple, he thought, like the gods of the nations around them. But the God of Israel was not like the gods of the nations around them. He was not, as they were, a god of man's imagination. He was, in fact, the living God, the only God, who was and is and always will be. He is completely unlike us. Yet, the Apostle John said of Him, "And the word became flesh and dwelt (literally in Greek, tented) among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) God became man to live among us and redeem us. He came, according to His own word, "not to be served, but to serve and give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45) He came to suffer, die in our place to redeem us from the curse of death, and rise again.

In other words, John tells us, God was keeping His first promise: to crush the serpent's head and free His fallen creation from sin and death. He came to be the very human offspring of David as the Old Testament said yet at the same time fully and completely God, as the Old Testament also says, in order to build a house both of humanity and for humanity, just as He promised David: "I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." In Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man, God has established His eternal kingdom.

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The Apostle Paul explained God's kingdom, His way of doing things – so far from our thinking - this way, "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundations of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place from God by the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22) So, when the Apostle John tells that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life," read that also in the light of the first promise given to Adam and Eve. You will then begin to understand how deep and changeless is the love of God toward you. Amen.

**Soli Deo Gloria**