

Read the following passage four times.

- The first reading, simple read the scripture and pause for a minute. Listen to the passage with the ear of the heart. Don't get distracted by intellectual types of questions about the passage. Just listen to what the passage is saying to you, right now.
- The second reading, look for a key word or phrase that draws your attention. Notice if any phrase, sentence or word stands out and gently begin to repeat it to yourself, allowing it to touch you deeply. No elaboration. In a group setting, you can share that word/phrase or simply pass.
- The third reading, pause for 2-3 minutes reflecting on "Where does the content of this reading touch my life today?"
   Notice what thoughts, feelings, and reflections arise within you. Let the words resound in your heart. What might God be asking of you through the scripture? In a group setting, you can share your reflection or simply pass.
- The fourth reading, pause for 2-3 minutes reflecting on "I believe that God wants me to ...... today/this week."
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Notice any prayerful response that arises within you, for example a small prayer of gratitude or praise. In a group setting, you can share your reflection or simply pass.

# Reading

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29

Then King David went in and sat in the LORD's presence and said, "Who am I, Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you should have brought me so far? And yet even this is too little in your sight, Lord GOD! For you have made a promise regarding your servant's house reaching into the future, and giving guidance to the people, Lord GOD!

You have established for yourself your people Israel as your people forever, and you, LORD, have become their God. Now, LORD God, confirm the promise that you have spoken concerning your servant and his house forever. Bring about what you have promised so that your name may be forever great. People will say: 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,' when the house of your servant David is established in your presence. Because you, LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed to your servant, 'I will build you a house,' your servant now finds the courage to make this prayer before you. Since you, Lord GOD, are truly God and your words are truth and you have made this generous promise to your servant, do, then, bless the house of your servant, that it may be in your presence forever—since you, Lord GOD, have promised, and by your blessing the house of your servant shall be blessed forever."



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# **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14

R. The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.

Remember, O LORD, for David all his hardships; How he swore an oath to the LORD, vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

# R. The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.

"I will not enter the house where I live, nor lie on the couch where I sleep; I will give my eyes no sleep, my eyelids no rest, Till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."

# R. The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.

The LORD swore an oath to David in truth, he will never turn back from it: "Your own offspring I will set upon your throne.

# R. The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.

If your sons observe my covenant, and my decrees I shall teach them, Their sons, in turn, shall sit forever on your throne."

# R. The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.



Yes, the LORD has chosen Zion, desired it for a dwelling: "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I desire it.

R. The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father.



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Alleluia

# R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A lamp to my feet is your word, a light to my path. **R. Alleluia, alleluia.** 

# Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples, "Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden except to be made visible; nothing is secret except to come to light. Anyone who has ears to hear ought to hear." He also told them, "Take care what you hear. The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you. To the one, who has, more will be given; from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

Ps 119:105

*Mk* 4:21-25