

# Mary's Hymn of Praise

*Promise: Mary shows how the Savior can be conceived in our hearts*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; [Luke 7:39-56](#)  
(Fourth Sunday in Advent, 12/19/21)

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." – v. 46-47*

**Lead In** – Among the various church traditions, some think that others pay too much attention and respect to Mary the Mother of our Lord. My concern is that we might pay too little. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." In his book entitled, "The Everlasting Man", G.K. Chesterton illustrates the problem with some Protestant sensibilities... This morning I wish to share with you three reasons to honor Mary...

## I. Mary Leads the Way In Receiving Christ

- A. First, the word of the Lord comes to Mary...
- B. Then she receives and believes the word...
- C. Conception, if you like, by means of the ear...

## II. A Mother Is Needed for God's Son to Be Incarnate

- A. Luther's explanation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article...
- B. Most of us needed two parents to be a man...
- C. Salvation by birth the plan from the beginning...

## III. Mary's Response to the Divine Overture

- A. The healthy soul magnifies the Lord...
- B. Humility: coming empty and hungry...
- C. The thirst for righteousness is the thirst for mercy...

**Parting Shot** – Friends, the Word of God has come to us this morning by way of a messenger. It is a Word of justice and mercy. The Word offers us forgiveness, which in turn results in life and salvation. This is especially good news for those who in humility have come empty of self-worth, and hungry for righteousness. We can say no finer words than, "let it be to me according to your word, O Lord." Truly, Mary leads the way by her example in this. And then together with her we can magnify the Lord with praise and thanksgiving. We do well to honor Mary for showing us this, and we can truly say, "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit..."

**Chesterton:** A Puritan generation objected to a statue of Mary and Child. What to do? They opted to take away the child Jesus as though she were less dangerous when deprived of a sort of weapon. It is obvious why they couldn't chisel away Mary. That would leave the baby suspended in midair.

Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her, and then promises her a most extraordinary birth that would be for our salvation.

**Lk 1:38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

**Ro 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

# Luke 7:39-56 ESV

*Mary Visits Elizabeth*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; <sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

**Luther:** "I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord."

**Ge 3:15** 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.

**Ga 4:4** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law

**Mt 5:3** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Mt 5:6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

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