

St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Celebrated August 15; Luke 1:46-55

She couldn't wait to get there, bursting as she was with good news, the best news, news that could only come from the HIGHEST HEAVENS. Ignited by the Holy Spirit and stepping across her kinswoman's threshold in heavenly joy, Mary began to spell out for Elizabeth that she had been chosen by the Lord to bring forth the Christ into the world. She was, even as she spoke, the Mother of God, for the angel, Gabriel, just days before, had appeared to Mary, promising at that moment, that she would conceive in her womb and bear a Son, calling His name, Jesus, the Sin-Bearer. Authoring her obedience, the Lord would give to all future generations the humble power to call her blessed.

You, also, generations later, magnify the Lord and rejoice in Mary's Infant God, your Savior. For this very Christ of the Father has taken up residence in you in the Holy Waters of Baptism, so that Paul can speak of, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). Christ, with all His mighty love does, indeed, dwell within you, loving you, forgiving you. He that is mighty has done great things for you. His mercy is on you and every generation that loves and fears God. His presence in you brings a most welcome sanctification, for His purity purifies you. His holiness declares you holy. The strength of His arm has brought you from darkness to light, filling you with all good from His storehouses of loving kindness.

But, take heed, Church of God! You and I have a built-in arrogance that merits eternal condemnation. You remember the words of Mary: He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. These are powerfully condemning words that describe your old nature. As Mary would say, by inspiration of the Spirit, "the rich He has sent empty away." Since you and I, by nature, love the riches of this world, the riches of knowing the Lord and His rich mercy are not that important to us at times. We are the personification of the proud, the mighty and the

rich. We deserve to be scattered, brought down and sent away.

**Have mercy on me, Incarnate Lord,
I who deserve none!**

Listen and forget not! The Father has also filled you, the hungry, with good things. He will never forget to show you mercy. He always remembers to do so. He sent His Son through this lowly, Jewish virgin, to take on your flesh through her and to make holy your flesh forever. Just look at the cross. There, on Calvary, hangs the ultimate in His mercy toward you. There, Mary's Babe took on your sin and destroyed it. This Son of the virgin abides with you, daily voiding your sin and claiming you as sinless as He. His name is Holy, and you are declared holy by His blood, death and overthrow of death in His resurrection. You can't lose. The Son of Mary is your God and Savior. Far from being proud, He became the most humble on the earth, His body being pierced with Holy Land thorns and nails for you and your deliverance. Because of His cross, He looks upon you in your humble estate of repentance and cannot but forgive you. That's His nature! His heart is full of compassion for you, as the waters cover the sea (Hab. 2:14). In Baptism and His Word and Holy Sacrament of the Altar, your eternity is secure.

Now, your vocabulary changes abruptly as you scatter abroad your pride, might and riches. Pride becomes humility in you. Might is turned to weakness. Your riches fade into nothing, as the mist before the blazing sun. Your hunger for the Lord and His forgiveness is fully satisfied with, "But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). Being ready for your entrance across the Sacred Threshold, you can't wait to reside there forever!

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John 5:24