

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

8-15-2021

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Celebrate (Introduction)

“Mary’s role is not limited to giving birth to Jesus and mothering him in his childhood. In John’s Gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. Through all that happened she continued to see how God was at work through her son, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, brushing aside the rich and powerful, and focusing on those as poor and powerless as Mary herself.”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn: [“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”](#)

Psalm: Psalm 34:1-9

“I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
² My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and be glad.
³ O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
⁵ Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
⁶ This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,
and saved him out of all his troubles.
⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
⁸ O taste and see that the Lord is good!
Happy is the man who takes refuge in him!
⁹ O fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no want!”

Hymn of Praise: [“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”](#)

Prayer of the Day

“Almighty God, in choosing the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, and the despised. Grant us grace to receive your

word in humility, and so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

1st Reading: [Isaiah 61:7-11](#)

2nd Reading: [Galatians 4:4-7](#)

The Gospel: [Luke 1:46-55](#)

Hymn of the Day: “O Word of God Incarnate”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxsA3n01z2s>

The Message: ([Video Link](#))

It is said that life has a habit of bringing about the most unlikely surprises. They can happen anytime in any age. Often these surprises come by way of the most unlikely people. I have witnessed this throughout my life when I am completely taken back by someone who does or says something totally unexpected especially when they seemed to be the least expected person to do so. It catches you by surprise.

Perhaps that is why for many years one of the only TV programs I watched was America’s Got Talent. You never knew who that unsuspecting outstanding talent would be. Often it turned out to be the least likely of persons. I’ll never forget a performance eleven years ago. (It is still as vivid in my mind as if it were yesterday.) As I recall there was no one that really stood out during the show that night. Then a small ten year old girl appeared on stage. To my thinking she was the most unlikely contestant. Immediately when she started singing I said to myself “This cannot be.” She sang an opera aria with astonishingly classical perfection. No one could believe what they heard coming from this tiny young girl. The surprising unexpected performer was Jackie Evancho who became an instant star singing to sell-out audiences across the country. This was a definite unexpected and surprising moment.

When thinking about such surprises my thoughts immediately turn to many centuries back to the fifteenth century when a mere adolescent at the age of 16 was able to lead a nearly defeated people to victory in what was called the Hundred Years War. It was one of those surprising events since the adolescent was a peasant farm girl who acted upon a vision which happened four year earlier. We are all familiar, or at least partially aware, of the story of Joan of Arc who led the French army out of despair and defeat to victory after victory against the territorial grabbing English throne. Her accomplishment ended when she was captured at age nineteen and burned at the stake for a trumped up charge of heresy. Joan of Arc has to be one of the greatest unlikely surprises in history.

For the Christian one of the ultimate unexpected surprises is that God choose an unsuspecting young virgin to bear His Son. Mary was chosen to be God’s instrument of the Incarnation. She was no more than an ordinary young woman who happened to be engaged to an older man, a

carpenter named Joseph. The unexpected surprise announcement to her and Joseph concerning her pregnancy had to not only be surreal but potentially life threatening. But through faith both she and Joseph found God's will in the surprising announcement.

That announcement in and of itself was an unsuspected surprise but there was yet another one of those life's surprises which we may not have thought about. Mary was visiting Elizabeth who was about to bear John the Baptist. Now I believe it is generally thought that Mary was an innocent, passive, and even gentle young woman unattached from worldly involvement. I guess we could say that most think her to be innocent of worldly concerns. This all may be true and that is why what she had to say upon visiting Elizabeth comes as an unexpected surprise.

Her words became one of the first hymns that the early church sung, the Magnificat. These words of Mary were no ballad of love, peace, humility, and harmony you would expect from a young woman, although it begins as such. She begins with these beautiful words of humbleness: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices to God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation." These are words which you would expect from this young woman who was to bear the Son of God. They were words of great thanksgiving and humility for being chosen by God. They were words founded in a deep faith and acknowledgment of the heavy responsibility placed upon her young life. They were words which would confirm her place in history. All of this was to be expected in what appeared to be a lovely ballad.

But, there is more, for the beginning of what would be called Mary's hymn or song would sharply change to the most revolutionary of prophecies. It was an unexpected surprise which would foretell a radical message and the outcome of the Incarnation. The prophecy of Mary would tell of how God would turn the world upside down which would come true through His power, "He has shown strength with his arm;" God would see to it that mankind would know that His kingdom would not be that which is governed by worldly interest and power. It would be His will revealed through the power of the Incarnation.

This revolution would first speak to those who find undo pride in themselves. "...he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts." In comparison to Jesus all of our pride fades away. This comparison enables us to see who we really are. How can excessive self-pride stand up against the message and life of Christ? Can we ever measure up to the love and forgiveness which he came to share with us? Self-pride is relinquished when we live in God's grace since love takes over. When this happens there is no longer the need for pride. Love is the ultimate fulfillment in life while pride is empty attempts in finding self-worth and meaning. Mary foretells that Jesus would present this radical but better way of life.

Not only would the proud be affected but the powerful also. This was a social revolution which was time and again emphasized throughout Jesus' Ministry. Those with prestige, influence, social status, and power no longer could exist as a result of this revolution. In fact,

those in such positions would be made low and the lowliest of society lifted up. This is because in God's kingdom of love there cannot be inequality, there cannot be anyone lower or higher than anyone else. By the very definition of love there cannot be such social distinctions. Everyone is on common ground; no one is lesser or no one is greater in God's kingdom. That is not the way in which mankind normally operates and is not the way we formulate society. This prophecy of Mary was revolutionary to say the least, "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly...." Wasn't this inherent in Jesus message?

Finally, Mary's prophecy of a social, moral revolution would actually affect the pocketbooks of everybody and have its economic ramifications. The poor would be brought out of their state of poverty, a state of constant hunger and need. When there are those who have an abundance of riches, the haves in life, how can there continue to be the have not's who struggle to meet even the barest essentials in life. This is made even worse when the "have's" maintain their riches at the expense of the "have not's" The revolution would be that the poor would be lifted up and the rich denied the continuance of their economic enhancement in God's Kingdom. Mary's prophecy cut like a two edged sword into the greed of mankind, "...he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty."

This prophecy of Mary is as alarming today as it was two thousand years ago. Label this as you wish but it is clearly a Christian revolution called for by Mary's prophecy. Jesus in fulfilling this prophecy is as much a revolutionary today as He was two thousand years ago. The message of this prophecy is as important to us today as when it was spoken. God's love has no room for excessive self-pride, no desire for dominance and oppression, and no time for greed and inequality. When we place our lives alongside of Jesus' life we may just be suddenly and unexpectedly surprised to find the truth of who we are and where we stand in light of Mary's prophecy. Every one of us desires to be within God's grace and we are. But, to find the fulfillment of this grace we must be motivated and live the life of His love. Likewise, to be a part of the revolution of Mary's prophecy is to seek to have this love conquer our lives and have no regrets about it. This is the joy of God's love. This is Mary's prophecy in her hymn, the Magnificat

Anthem: ["Ave Maria" Jackie Evancho](#)

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

Eternal God, it seems as though each new day brings news that we are regressing as a society into the expanding reaches of the pandemic and into being further divided by extremism. We are in need of wisdom to guide us through these troubling times. Open our minds and hearts to see the truth beyond the false prophets which are not only further dividing us but actually

bringing harm, pain, suffering and even death to far too many. Let us be filled with the healing and life giving love you have shown us through your Son. Bring comfort and healing to those on the front line of this pandemic as well as courage in face of ridicule and threats.

Many of your children are suffering today not only from the pandemic but also for tragic and devastating wildfires, floods, famine and droughts. We are especially mindful of those in Haiti who are suffering from another disastrous earthquake. Protect and comfort your suffering children and bring them relief and strength to face their future.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, the Elshafei family, the Fultz family, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, Charles Larsen, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, David Otto, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Linda Rigby, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family,, Della , Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Linda Williamson, Wyatt Lee Wolf, Pastor Jack,

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters
Live on knowing God's love,
The joy of living this life of love,
And the peace which only comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["Rejoice the Lord is King"](#)

Announcements

Next week, August 22, Pastor Karen Pugatch will be preaching.

Services will be outdoors unless inclement weather conditions force us indoors. Face masks and social distancing outdoors are not required. An email will be sent late Saturday afternoons stating whether indoors or outdoors.

*Offering to be sent to:
Bob Brackbill

10274 Raleigh Tavern Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291