

Luke 1:46-56

This is Luke's record of the marvelous song of Mary, known as ***the Magnificat***. I'd like to highlight sections and share a brief thought or two.

The Holy Spirit inspires us to song! Mary sings this hymn under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. "*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*"

The Spirit connects with and stirs our deepest inner places! Mary is using a common Hebrew form of poetry--synonymous parallelism--where the first line and the second line mean essentially the same thing (she's not making a distinction between her soul and her spirit). She says it once: "*My soul magnifies the Lord,*" and says it again, "*My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*" This is pure praise flowing from the deepest part of her being.

Christ is born in us! Theologians have paid attention to the last couple of words of the second line: "*my Savior.*" What does Mary mean by that? St. Thomas Aquinas is one who believed that Mary could not have been sinless because she confessed in this hymn her need of a Savior. Mary was the mother of her Savior and ours!

Mary is overwhelmed by the tenderness of God. She says, "*For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant.*" Some have suggested that this is the original Cinderella Story--not a fairy tale or a myth--but the sober truth that God noticed her (looked at her) as God does with each of us. "*He looked at me. He noticed me. He sees me, and, behold, henceforth all the generations of human history will call me blessed, because I am blessed, supremely blessed, like no woman in human history has ever been blessed.*"

Mary's beautiful description of God's character: "*For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear (respect) Him from generation to generation.*"

God is Mighty, Holy, Merciful.

Prayer: Father, give us hearts like Mary where we sing your praise and adoration with all of our soul and spirit. May the words that pass over our lips come from the depths of our being where your Holy Spirit lives and creates a reality of might, holiness and mercy that overflows from our mouths with joyful praise! Amen.

I wish you overflowing joy this Advent Season!

Pastor Duff