

an Advent sermon from LUKE 1:46-55:

ON THE MAGNIFICAT SONG OF MARY!

Robert Baral
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I. AN PRAYER FIT FOR ADVENT

Let us pray: “Most Merciful JESUS, Whose very nature is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from it. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to The Father and The HOLY SPIRIT.”¹

“Oh omnipotence of Divine Mercy, Salvation of sinful people, You are a sea of mercy and compassion; you aid those who entreat You with humility. [Therefore,] Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of JESUS. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy forever and ever! Amen.”²

II. A PROPOSITION

In Advent we The Church anticipate The First Coming of our Lord JESUS CHRIST in The Incarnation, and knowing that He is with us His saints even now, we anticipate with all certainty His Coming Again. Therefore the joyful Magnificat song and prayer of Mary is a model of the humble thankfulness that Christians should ever hold for The Great Gift of The Advent of our Saviour JESUS CHRIST!

III. AN ADVENT SCRITPURE – LUKE 1:46-55 - THE MAGNIFICAT OF MARY³

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify The Lord,

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in GOD my Saviour.⁴

48 For He hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49 For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His Name.⁵

50 And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.

¹ 1, Saint Faustina, Divine Mercy in My Soul, # 1211, p 436, paragraph 1. Prayer for Novena, day 1.

² 1, Ibid., p 436, paragraph 2-3. Prayer for Novena, day 1.

³ 2, Episcopal BCP, PSALMS and Lessons For The Christian Year, from “Second Lesson” for “Second Sunday in Advent,” p xvi.

⁴ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:46-48. Part I, Mary’s song to GOD of thanksgiving and gratitude.

⁵ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:49-50. Part II, Mary’s song to GOD of adoration and praise.

51 He hath shewed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.

54 He hath holpen His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy;

55 As He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever! ⁶

IV. INTRODUCTION – THE NATURE OF ADVENT

If we look at the traditional Christian liturgical calendar, we may observe that the four weeks before Christmas Day are designated as “Advent.” ⁷ This is the celebration of the anticipation of the birth of our Saviour JESUS CHRIST. Advent is then “...a season of [Christian] devotion, [in that The Church looks back with joyful thankfulness] ...to The [First] Coming of CHRIST in the flesh, [and looks forward with joyful anticipation] to His Second Coming to judge the world!” ⁸ Further, Advent also calls us to the daily reality that JESUS CHRIST our Lord is present with us now through His Body on earth The Church and in the lives and hearts of His saints through The HOLY SPIRIT. So in Advent, “The Church not only prepares to welcome Him at Christmas time [and] ...to greet Him in the hour of His Final Triumph; ...[but She also] rejoices even now in the possession and The Presence of ...[Her] Lord [JESUS CHRIST] in ...[Her] midst!” ⁹

In LUKE 1 we look back into The historic First Coming of The Messiah JESUS CHRIST. So GOD sent His angel Gabriel to a faithful young Jewish virgin by the name of Mary, whom He ordained to be the mother of Himself Incarnate. We read in LUKE 1:30-33, “And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with GOD. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His Name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called The Son of The Highest: and The Lord GOD shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end!” ¹⁰

⁶ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:50-55. Part III, Mary’s song to GOD of celebration and joy.

⁷ 2, Episcopal BCP, PSALMS and Lessons For The Christian Year, p xvi-xviii.

⁸ 4, Noah Webster, entry for “Advent,” noun, page ADV-ADV.

⁹ 5, New Catholic Encyclopedia, entry for Advent, p 152-153, last paragraph.

¹⁰ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:30-33.

In The Gospels our Lord assures us that He is present with us now in this world - through The Church and through The HOLY SPIRIT. So in MATTHEW 28:19-20 The Messiah declares, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in The Name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always[s], even unto the end of the world...!”¹¹ And our Deliverer tells us in JOHN 14:26, “But The Comforter, which is The Holy Ghost, Whom The Father will send in My Name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you!”¹² Therefore Saint Paul tells Christians that The HOLY SPIRIT now dwells, not only among His people, but within them as well! For he declares in I CORINTHIANS 6:19, “What? Know ye not that your body is The Temple of The HOLY GHOST which is in you, which ye have of GOD, and ye are not your own?”¹³

And as in II TIMOTHY 4 we look forward into the future to The Second Coming of our Lord JESUS CHRIST. So that great and terrible Day of The Lord shall as certainly come upon the stage of prophetic history according to GOD’s will as surely as He came at The First and as He is with us now in the present! So Saint Paul writes in II TIMOTHY 4:1-2 “I charge thee therefore before GOD, and The Lord JESUS CHRIST, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom...!”¹⁴

V. SETTING THE STAGE – THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY

Let us therefore consider our Advent Scripture text together from Luke’s Gospel, commonly called “The Magnificat” of Mary.¹⁵ And in doing so, may we come to a deeper thankfulness and a higher gladness for the love of GOD towards us – mere sinful men – which passes all human understanding! But let us first set the scene: LUKE 1:28 records the angel Gabriel is sent from GOD to Mary – a humble young Jewish virgin –

¹¹ 3, KJV, MATTHEW 28:19-20.

¹² 3, KJV, JOHN 14:26.

¹³ 3, KJV, I CORINTHIANS 6:19.

¹⁴ 3, KJV, II TIMOTHY 4:1.

¹⁵ 6, Scofield KJV Bible, title given to LUKE 1:46-56, p 1072, “The Magnificat.”

with this startling Annunciation, "...Hail, thou that art highly favoured, The Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women!"¹⁶

Now a visitation by an angel of GOD to any man or woman is an uncommon - no, utterly overwhelming and devastatingly awe inspiring - experience! So it is no doubt an understatement when Saint Luke records that Mary "...was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be!"¹⁷ Though prepared in righteousness since the moment of her own conception to be a fit vessel to contain for a time The Saviour within her womb – ordained to be so from before the beginning of creation – surely Mary must have trembled within her soul, for the angel Gabriel replies, "...Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with GOD!"¹⁸

Now Gabriel reveals why he has been sent as The Almighty's servant to Mary – to reveal that she would be by GOD's great design of redemption the mother of The Messiah long promised by the prophets of Old, and for Whom the remnant of Israel had longed to see for their deliverance! So we read in LUKE 1:31-33, "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His Name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called The Son of The Highest: and The Lord GOD shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end!"¹⁹

Now Mary could not understand how such a thing could come to be, since she was still a virgin, asking, "...How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"²⁰ Therefore Gabriel offers these words in LUKE 1:35, "...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of The Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also That Holy Thing which shall be born of thee shall be called The Son of GOD."²¹ To this the angel offers a sign to Mary of the truth of his words, not that Mary might fully analyze and understand, but

¹⁶ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:28.

¹⁷ 3, KJV, LUKE 2:29.

¹⁸ 3, KJV, LUKE 2:30.

¹⁹ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:31-33.

²⁰ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:34.

²¹ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:35.

that she might better have faith and believe: “And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with GOD nothing shall be impossible!”²²

And what was Mary’s response? Should any man or woman dare to hope to fully understand the counsels of The Creator of the universe, either in this life or even in the next? GOD forbid! But such an impossibly full understanding was not sought by Mary. She offered instead no argument, no objection, no further questioning, but only humble acceptance of and simple obedience to GOD’s will! This Mary, whom The LORD had chosen to be as it were a type of living Ark to for a time contain The Living Word of GOD Made Flesh, would soon be used to bring to man The Amazing Grace of The New Covenant in The Person of JESUS CHRIST! As Saint John writes, “And The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...!”²³ Therefore Mary replied simply, “...Behold the handmaid of The Lord; be it unto me according to Thy Word...”²⁴ So Mary arose and went in expectant haste “...into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.”²⁵

Which brings us to the end of the setting of the stage for our text on Mary’s Magnificat from The Holy Scriptures. For when the unborn John The Baptist in Elisabeth’s womb heard the voice of Mary, Saint Luke documents that “...the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with The HOLY GHOST.”²⁶ And Elisabeth prophesied “...with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb... For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from The Lord!”²⁷

²² 3, KJV, LUKE 1:36-37

²³ 3, KJV, JOHN 1:14.

²⁴ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:38.

²⁵ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:40.

²⁶ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:41.

²⁷ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:42-45.

VI. MARY'S RESPONSE IN THE MAGNIFICAT

At last we arrive at the meat of our sermon! The word “Magnificat” is used for This Scripture because this is Mary’s song and prayer of praise and thanksgiving to The LORD. Calvin divides Mary’s song into three sections: 1) thanksgiving and gratitude: “...Mary offers solemn thanksgiving for that mercy of GOD which she had experienced in her own person;” 2) adoration and praise: Mary “...celebrates in general terms GOD’s power and judgements;” 3) celebration and joy: Mary “...applies these to the matter in hand, treating of the redemption formerly promised, and now granted to The Church!”²⁸

A. LUKE 1:46-48 – THANKSGIVING AND GRATITUDE

Mary first declares her thanksgiving and gratitude to GOD in LUKE 1:46-48: “...My soul doth magnify The Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in GOD my Saviour! For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed!”²⁹

Here Mary’s soul, “the seat of her affections,” sings thankful praise to GOD for His great mercy to her. She sings her song from the deepest joy that her heart had yet known. Therefore her spirit - “the understanding” of her mind – rejoices in gratitude which acknowledges and confesses The LORD as The very personal Creator and Saviour of her earthly life and eternal soul. For as Calvin observes here, “...the excitement of the will of man to praise GOD must be preceded by a rejoicing of the spirit.”³⁰ For JAMES 5:13 declares, “Is any among you ...merry? let him sing PSALMS!”³¹

Why does Mary confess herself as of “low estate,” and then sing her prayer of joy here? Was it not that she beheld her own finite and humble humanity before this great miracle and honor of GOD which was announced to her by His angel Gabriel? Was it not because of The Divine Grace bestowed upon her – though a mere created creature of humankind fashioned by The Creator’s hand according to His salvific purposes – and yet

²⁸ 7, Calvin’s Commentaries, LUKE 1:46-55, introductory comments, Volume XVI, p 52.

²⁹ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:46-48.

³⁰ 7, Calvin’s Commentaries, LUKE 1:46, Volume XVI, p 42, “46. My soul magnifieth.”

³¹ 3, KJV, JAMES 5:13.

she was to be The GOD-bearer, the very mother of GOD Incarnate? And let us note that it was not that Mary was self righteous nor haughty in any way as she entered her Divinely decreed service as the mother of GOD Incarnate within her womb, but that she was by His Grace obedient and humble to The Almighty.

So here is Mary, though herself a child of sinful mankind, yet prepared by the very arm of The LORD to be the mother of The CHRIST, rejoicing in GOD her Saviour! For like David, she was willingly the humble servant of The LORD, washed and made white as snow by His Grace. So we see The Virgin's Magnificat springing forth from David's prayers in PSALM 51:14-15: "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O GOD, Thou GOD of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth Thy praise!"³²

B. LUKE 1:49-50 – ADORATION AND PRAISE

Mary secondly sings out her adoration and praise to GOD: "For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His Name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation!"³³

What is this Great Thing then that has given Mary cause to adore The Creator of the universe? She might well have wondered, "Is this child to be more than a mere mighty prophet, greater than even a great high Priest in The Jerusalem Temple? Even if that were the extent of it, this would be a great miracle!" But then Mary would have recalled the prophetic words of the angel of GOD just spoken to her. "No," she would have seen, "this child will be more than even this! He will be The Messiah! For Gabriel has said, and thus GOD has said, that He shall be The Promised Deliverer!"

Indeed, by the mighty outstretched arm of The LORD, The HOLY SPIRIT conceived in Mary's womb The One Who is from before time "...great, and shall be called The Son of The Highest: and The Lord GOD shall give unto Him the throne of His

³² 3, KJV, PSALM 51:14-15.

³³ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:49-50.

father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His Kingdom there shall be no end!”³⁴ Mary knew what this meant: she was to be the mother of The long awaited and deeply desired Messiah!

And Mary herself was to be the new and obedient Eve, through whom GOD would bring forth His works to undo the curses of sin and death which sprang forth from the old and disobedient Eve in The Garden! Where Eve rebelled deceitfully against the decreed will of GOD, now Mary would submit joyfully! Where Eve had brought forth the consequences of revolt against The Word of GOD, now Mary would bring forth The Word of GOD made flesh, Who would take away the sins of the world! This is the humble servant who is after GOD’s own heart, as was David. Such was the heart of Mary, of which David desires in PSALM 51:17, “The sacrifices of GOD are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O GOD, thou wilt not despise!”³⁵

So the early Church Father Irenaeus comments, “...Having become disobedient, [Eve] ...was made ...[as it were, the channel] of death,³⁶ both to herself and to the entire human race. [But]...Mary, ...by yielding obedience, became ...[as it were, the channel] of salvation],³⁷ both to herself and the whole human race! ...So it was that the knot of

³⁴ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:32-33.

³⁵ 3, KJV, PSALM 51:17.

³⁶ 8, Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, entry for “Mary,” 2nd comment by Irenaeus, p 437. Irenaeus says here that Eve’s disobedience to GOD caused her to become “the cause of death” to mankind. I substitute here “as it were, the channel of death” to make it clear that sin – and not the person of Eve in and of herself – is the source of man’s malady.

³⁷ 8, Ibid. Irenaeus says here that Mary’s obedience to GOD caused her to become “the cause of salvation” to mankind. I substitute here “as it were, the channel of salvation” to make it clear that salvation, which is in JESUS CHRIST alone – and not the person of Mary in and of herself – is the source of man’s cure. Mary is the most Divinely favored and blessed woman in prophetic history, The exalted Virgin in Heaven, the living human Ark who for a time contained The Living Word of GOD. But Mary is not a “co-redeemer.” She always directs men, not to herself, but to her Son - our Saviour and Redeemer JESUS CHRIST. We find in Holy Scripture that Mary points men to obedience to her Son. And so she said to the servants at the wedding feast in JOHN 2:5, “...Whatsoever He [JESUS] saith unto you, do it!” [KJV] In every Church-documented and Church-verified miraculous appearance of The Blessed Virgin throughout history, she always calls men to receive forgiveness of sins and salvation in JESUS The Messiah, GOD The Son, and never in nor through herself.

Eve's disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. For what the virgin Eve had bound fast through unbelief, this did The Virgin Mary set free through faith!"³⁸ For as the prophet Samuel once declared to King Saul in I SAMUEL 15:22, ...Hath The LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of The LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams!"³⁹

C. LUKE 1:51-55 – CELEBRATION AND JOY

Mary thirdly cries out in words with unspeakable celebration and joy for GOD's great works of grace and salvation: "He hath shewed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away. He hath holpen His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy; As He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever!"⁴⁰

O the terrible state of Israel, That Chosen nation of The LORD, in the time which GOD had placed Mary! As Calvin observes of the state of affairs then, a picture which well describes the state of much of The visible Church today in our own time and place, "Religion had been polluted in innumerable ways. The public instruction retained almost nothing pure. The government of The [Old Testament] Church [Israel] was in the greatest confusion, and breathed nothing but shocking barbarity. The order of civil society no longer subsisted. The great body of the people were torn like wild beasts by the Romans and Herod!"⁴¹

Where then was Israel's only hope? In The Coming of The Messiah and in Him alone, to Whom Mary would soon give birth! And what does Calvin say here of that

³⁸ 8, Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs, entry for "Mary," 2nd comment by Irenaeus, p 437. Irenaeus compares the evil work wrought by the disobedience of Eve to the good work wrought by the obedience of Mary.

³⁹ 3, KJV, I SAMUEL 15:22.

⁴⁰ 3, KJV, LUKE 1:51-55.

⁴¹ 7, Calvin's Commentaries, Volume XVI, LUKE 1:51-55, p 61, "54. He hath lifted up His servant Israel."

which Mary celebrates? That GOD employs and delivers the humble, but that he casts down and puts away the haughty! So Calvin observes that "...the proud gain nothing by endeavoring... to oppose GOD; [for] ...GOD does not display the power of His arm for salvation, except in the case of the humble, while the proud, who arrogate much to themselves, are thrown down" by His mighty hand!⁴² What did GOD require of Mary? That she be a humble and obedient servant, of which she was happy to be! Therefore Saint Peter declares in I PETER 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of GOD, that He may exalt you in due time!"⁴³

Here also Mary confesses man's utter depraved helplessness to save himself and GOD's total sovereignty and power which alone saves the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve! O vain man, your hopes of salvation earthly and eternal are of no avail when you trust in the praises and honors of men! Nor have you any hope in the laurels of worldly wealth and power! But those who suffer for their love of The Almighty and for righteousness' sake – those The Maker of all things shall deliver from their sorrow and affliction! Those He shall raise up to glory before angels and men! Those he shall fill with all good things and quench all hungers that burn therein! So Saint James declares in JAMES 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of The Lord, and He shall lift you up!"⁴⁴

VII. THE HUMBLE OBEDIENCE OF MARY A MARK OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

So we see that a hallmark of a true and living Christian faith is humble obedience to GOD, which we see so brightly shining upon us as an example of the highest order in Mary! Saint Lawrence Justinian, in a sermon on the holiness and faith of The Virgin Mary, declared, "...How entirely blessed was the mind of The Virgin [Mary] which, through the indwelling and guidance of The [HOLY] SPIRIT, was always and in every way open to the power of The Word of GOD. She was not led [merely] by her own senses, nor [simply] by her own will..." But through her holiness and obedience, Mary submitted to what was ordained by GOD for her sanctification and salvation in JESUS CHRIST, becoming the channel of Divine Grace for the sanctification and salvation of

⁴² 7, Calvin's Commentaries, Volume XVI, LUKE 1:51-55, p 58, "51. He hath done might."

⁴³ 3, KJV, I PETER 5:6.

⁴⁴ 3, KJV, JAMES 4:10.

mankind in her Son our Lord! “Thus she accomplished outwardly through her body [as The living Ark of The Living Word of GOD and the very mother of our Saviour] what [Divine] Wisdom from within gave to her faith,” to fully trust and humbly submit to This Great Work of The LORD for us His saints!⁴⁵ Indeed, was not Mary always concerned in her earthly life - as she is forever in her Heavenly life - in magnifying and serving her Son JESUS CHRIST, The Word of GOD Incarnate?

Saint Justinian continues, “It was fitting for Divine Wisdom, Which created Itself a home in The church, to use the intervention of the most blessed Mary in guarding The Law [of GOD in her life with fervor], purifying the mind [with total devotion to her Son JESUS CHRIST], giving an example of humility and providing a spiritual sacrifice” of obedience to The Almighty!⁴⁶ Thus was Mary chosen by Divine decree to be so used of GOD for His purposes in the redemption of mankind, for The Virgin is always to be found pointing men to her Son, JESUS The Messiah! And so may we also be, if we but follow Mary’s example. As Moses declared to Israel in DEUTERONOMY 11:27, “A blessing, if ye obey The Commandments of The LORD your GOD...!”⁴⁷ For we are all called to obey The Saviour, as is declared of CHRIST in HEBREWS 5:9, “And being made perfect, He became The Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him!”

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As The Reformation Father Martin Luther says so well, O Mary, “No woman is like you. You are more than Eve or Sarah, blessed above all nobility, wisdom and sanctity.”⁴⁹ Why does Luther so praise and honor The blessed Virgin? Because of her humble and unwavering faith in The Messiah JESUS, her Son and our Lord! This is The Faith which Mary models for us, and which she calls all men to take hold of, that we confess and follow JESUS CHRIST totally and completely with all our heart, mind and

⁴⁵ 9, Liturgy of The Hours, Volume III, p 1444-1445, paragraph 1. The Immaculate Heart of Mary. “From a sermon by Saint Lawrence Justinian, Bishop. Sermo. 8, in festo Purificationis B.M.V.: Opera. 2, Venetis 1751, 38-39.

⁴⁶ 8, Ibid.

⁴⁷ 3, KJV, DEUTERONOMY 11:27.

⁴⁸ 3, KJV, HEBREWS 5:9.

⁴⁹ 10, Dave Armstrong, “Martin Luther’s Devotion to Mary.” Coming Home Network International Newsletter, August 2007, p 4, 3rd quote of Martin Luther. “Sermon, Feast of The Visitation, 1537.”

soul! Therefore Martin Luther says further, “One should honor Mary as she herself wished and as she expressed it in The Magnificat. She praised GOD for His deeds. How then can we praise her? The true honor of Mary is the honor of GOD, the praise of GOD’s Grace... Mary is nothing for the sake of herself, but [only in and] for the sake of CHRIST... Mary does not wish that we come to her, but through her [that all men come] to GOD” Incarnate, her Son our Lord JESUS CHRIST!⁵⁰

VIII. IN CONCLUSION

Thus we end where we began: in Advent we The Church anticipate The First Coming of our Lord JESUS CHRIST in The Incarnation, and knowing that He is with us His saints even now, we anticipate with all certainty His Coming Again! Therefore the joyful Magnificat song and prayer of Mary is a model of the humble thankfulness that Christians should ever hold for The Great Gift of The Advent of our Saviour JESUS CHRIST!

The GOD Whom earth and sea and sky
Adore and laud and magnify,
Whose mighty they own, Whose praise they tell,
In Mary’s body deigned to dwell.

O Mother blest! The chosen shrine
Wherein The Architect Divine,
Whose hand contains the earth and sky,
Vouchsafed in hidden guise to lie:

Blest in the message Gabriel brought;
Blest in the work The Spirit wrought;
Most blest, to bring to human birth
The Long Desired [Redeemer] of all the earth.

O Lord, the Virgin born, to Thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with The Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for ever more!⁵¹

⁵⁰ 10, Dave Armstrong, “Martin Luther’s Devotion to Mary.” Coming Home Network International Newsletter, August 2007, p 4, 4th quote of Martin Luther. “Explanation of The Magnificat, 1521.”

⁵¹ 9, Liturgy of The Hours, Volume III, p 1614. “Hymn – Text: Venantius Fortunatus, 530-609 AD; Translator: J. M. Neale, 1818-1866 AD; Music: Johan H. Schein, 1586-1630 AD; Melody: Eisenach L. M.”

Like The blessed Virgin Mary, we must confess that we as mere men are not capable of saving ourselves from our sin and its dreadful consequences of both earthly or eternal death, but that only The Almighty in His Grace may save us through the atoning sacrifice of JESUS CHRIST made on our behalf! And because our salvation has indeed come and has been secured by The Son of GOD by His work on The Cross for us, should we not join with Mary in her Magnificat to The LORD with songs and prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude, adoration and praise, celebration and joy? Therefore, sing out with glad hearts, ye who are true Israelites by faith in our Lord JESUS CHRIST, as did Mary in LUKE 1:46-47: "...My soul doth magnify The Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in GOD my Saviour!"⁵² In The Name of GOD The Father, and of the Son and of The Holy Ghost, AMEN!

⁵²3, KJV, LUKE 1:46-47.

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