



Celebrate

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

August 15, 2021

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.

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 61:7-11

The prophet proclaims a hopeful message: God loves justice and will make an everlasting covenant with Israel and her descendants. In response, the prophet sings a joyful song, like Mary many generations later, about God's mercy and salvation.

Because [the] shame [of God's
people] was double,
and dishonor was proclaimed as
their lot,
therefore they shall possess a
double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their
recompense,
and I will make an everlasting
covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known
among the nations,
and their offspring among the
peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the
LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my
God;
for he has clothed me with the
garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe
of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with
a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with
her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its
shoots,
and as a garden causes what is
sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause
righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the
nations.



Pro - claim with me the great - ness of the LORD.

- I will bless the LORD ¹ at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be ¹ in my mouth.
- ²I will glory ¹ in the LORD;
let the lowly hear ¹ and rejoice.
- ³Proclaim with me the greatness ¹ of the LORD;
let us exalt God's ¹ name together.
- ⁴I sought the LORD, who ¹ answered me
and delivered me from ¹ all my terrors. **R**
- ⁵Look upon the LORD ¹ and be radiant,
and let not your faces ¹ be ashamed.
- ⁶I called in my affliction, and ¹ the LORD heard me
and saved me from ¹ all my troubles.
- ⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who ¹ fear the LORD,
and de- ¹ livers them.
- ⁸Taste and see that the ¹ LORD is good;
happy are they who take ref- ¹ uge in God!
- ⁹Fear the LORD, you saints ¹ of the LORD,
for those who fear the ¹ LORD lack nothing. **R**

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

In the promise of the Incarnation, Jesus Christ embodies God's mother-father heart, in love claiming people as adopted children.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel

Luke 1:46-55

Mary's song, the Magnificat, serves as a thematic anthem for God's work in the world and therefore for the ministry of her son, Jesus. In Mary's praise we hear of a saving God who remembers the humble, scatters the proud, lifts up the lowly, and fulfills all things.

Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You have revealed your love for people overlooked and cast aside, sending your son to be born among the humble and poor. Send your church to proclaim good news to those who feel abandoned, despised, or rejected and make our congregations places of genuine welcome and hospitality. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All creation longs for healing and restoration. Thwart the destruction of plant and animal habitats and amplify the voices of those who advocate for wise stewardship of the earth's resources. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember your promise to our ancestors and look to you for justice. Expose pride, greed, and exploitation wherever it is found and raise up humble leaders who act on behalf of those who are poor, oppressed, or in other need. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your Spirit lives in our hearts and makes us heirs of salvation. Rescue us from shame and dishonor. Lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and have mercy on those who turn to you for help (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Mary's song of praise and amazement echoes through this assembly. Attend to those in this congregation expecting a child and console those struggling to conceive. Come to the aid of those enduring a difficult pregnancy and those who have experienced a miscarriage. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the saints who have found refuge in you, O God (*especially Mary, mother of Jesus*). As you have delivered them from all their afflictions, so save us from all our earthly troubles until that day when we sing your praise together in heaven. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 36. **Tuesday** Acts 7:9-16. **Wednesday** Genesis 47:13-26. **Thursday** Psalm 34:15-22. **Friday** (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153) Romans 13:11-14. **Saturday** Luke 11:5-13. **13th Sunday after Pentecost** Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.

CELEBRATE August 15, 2021 (Mary, Mother of Our Lord)

Volume 52, Number 3

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2008, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Aaron David Miller. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2009). Please visit our Web site at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year B. 12 of 13
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