

# Sunday, August 15, 2021

## Mary, Mother of Our Lord

### 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.

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,  
**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.  
We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.  
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.  
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.  
We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.  
We sin in thought, word, and deed.  
By your grace, forgive us;  
through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us;  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**  
Beloved of God,  
by the radical abundance of divine mercy  
we have peace with God through ✙ Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.  
Our sins are forgiven.  
Let us live now in hope.  
For hope does not disappoint,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* Greetings, O favored one! The <sup>1</sup> Lord is with you.\* The Holy Spirit will <sup>1</sup> come upon you. *Alleluia.* (Luke 1:28, 35)

## **Readings and Psalm**

### **Isaiah 61:7-11**

*God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations*

### **Psalm 34:1-9**

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD. (Ps. 34:3)

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

*We are no longer slaves, but children*

### **Luke 1:46-55**

*Mary exults in the Lord*

## **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.*

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>For 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.

<sup>9</sup>Their 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.

<sup>10</sup>I 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.  
<sup>11</sup>For 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.

## **Psalm: Psalm 34:1-9**

*Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD. (Ps. 34:3)*

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD<sup>1</sup> at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be <sup>1</sup> in my mouth.  
**<sup>2</sup>I will glory <sup>1</sup> in the LORD;  
let the lowly hear <sup>1</sup> and rejoice.**  
<sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness <sup>1</sup> of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's <sup>1</sup> name together.  
**<sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, who <sup>1</sup> answered me  
and delivered me from <sup>1</sup> all my terrors. R**  
<sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD<sup>1</sup> and be radiant,  
and let not your faces <sup>1</sup> be ashamed.  
**<sup>6</sup>I called in my affliction, and <sup>1</sup> the LORD heard me  
and saved me from <sup>1</sup> all my troubles.**  
<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and de- <sup>1</sup> livers them.  
**<sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the <sup>1</sup> LORD is good;  
happy are they who take ref- <sup>1</sup> uge in God!**  
<sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
for those who fear the <sup>1</sup> 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.*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.  
<sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So 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.*

<sup>46</sup>Mary said,  
    “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
        <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
    Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
    and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
    from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
    he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
    and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
    and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
    in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>according 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.**

## **Offering Prayer**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.  
**Amen.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Friends of Jesus, come to the table.  
Receive nourishment for your journey.

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.  
**Amen.**

## Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.  
**Amen.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Mary, Mother of Our Lord** **Sunday, August 15, 2021**

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

### **Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153** **Friday, August 20, 2021**

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.  
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