

Gospel Reflection

Matters of place and status have plagued religions, Christianity included, throughout all time. Jesus himself was often the source of controversy for scrambling the roles that the religious customs of his day assigned. He chastised his followers who sought roles of primary authority. This may have been a lesson he learned from his mother, who sings in her Magnificat that God raises the lowly, casts down the mighty, fills the hungry, sends the rich away empty. In her earthly life she was so many things that her world considered last and least: a woman, of humble means, not espoused to a priest like her cousin, a mother under circumstances suspect to her neighbors. Yet it was she who in her lowliness is addressed by the angel as “highly favored” and “blessed among all women.” And it is Mary whom the Roman Catholic Church today acclaims as the first human person to share in the resurrection of the body won by her Son, Jesus, the firstfruit of her womb, the firstfruit of life eternal.

It is a “bottom line” reality of Christianity that, ultimately, all things belong in one of two categories: God and not God. Some may wonder at the reading from Revelation on this Assumption day, wherein the child born to the woman is caught up to heaven, yet she is not. But Revelation itself reveals the answer: it is this child, the Anointed One, the Christ, in whom salvation and power have come, and the glorious reign of the kingdom of God. All of this belongs to God and God alone. It is the power of that salvation, it is the glory of that kingdom that the Roman Catholic Church teaches would also take Mary, body and soul, to the throne of God. We who belong to Christ, as Paul says in the letter to the Corinthians, on the day of Christ’s coming will be brought to life for all eternity. In Mary we see this fulfilled, and through her we look to Christ, who will, on that day, join us to her wonderful destiny.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Luke 1:39-56

G J B V M F E V S K T F H
 U R R S I J L L J Q T B U
 T X E L G C I L O W L Y Q
 T S L A H F Z M B E V L N
 D E R E T T A C S O U R Z
 D E J E Y N B S U C H O W
 O M D S S R E H T O M K C
 Q U N W O D T S A C A I W
 P Y R G N U H Z S G R S B
 J H E D R O L Z Y Y Y H R
 Z T M R M R Z W L Q K I D
 N A W Q C P I C U J P F Y
 W Q X S G O V Y N A D E V

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

BLESSED	CAST DOWN	ELIZABETH
FILLED	GREATNESS	HUNGRY
LIFTED UP	LORD	LOWLY
MARY	MIGHTY	MOTHER
PROUD	SCATTERED	SOUL

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8/15/2008*

*Luke 1:39-56
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Luke 1:39-56*

The Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town in Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed you are among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

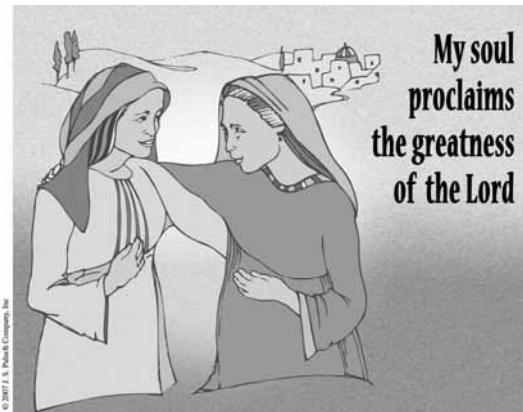
And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear

him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our father, to Abraham and his children forever."

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

Mother of my Lord: In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is identified as Lord even before His birth.

Blessed are you who believed: Mary's belief is contrasted with the disbelief of Zachariah earlier in the chapter.

Scattered the proud: These verses carry on the Matthean theme of reversal of fortune, with the proud and mighty being made low and the lowly being exalted.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- How does Mary serve as a model of discipleship for me?
- How does the glory that awaits those who are faithful to God's word impact how I live?
- What are some ways that I honor the Blessed Virgin Mary for her faithfulness?

Closing Prayer

Father in Heaven,

All creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless life and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary