

THE FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD

August 15, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Mary, the mother of Jesus, is traditionally believed to have died on this date. 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 gifts of the Spirit. Mary's song (the Magnificat) is a powerful statement of justice, still apt for us today as we come with our own neediness to experience God's justice and mercy in word and sacrament.

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.

✠ GATHERING ✠

OPENING HYMN

For All the Faithful Women



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,
2 We hon - or faith - ful Mar - y, fair maid - en, full of grace.
All praise to God the Fath - er! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.
She bore the Christ, our bro - ther, Who saved our hum - an race.
All praise to God the Spir - it, Who binds the Church in one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.
May we, with her, sur - ren - der our - selves to Your com - mand
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.
and lay up - on Your al - tar our gifts of heart and hand.
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do Your will

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

P. Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P. Loving God,

C. we confess that we have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to worship You with our whole being and to share the abundance of grace You give us. We have acted out of selfish ambition rather than the interests of others; we have nursed grudges rather than seeking reconciliation and peace. Forgive us and renew in us the mind of Christ Jesus, that we may live according to Your will. Amen.

P. Since we are justified by faith . . . the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

DIALOG OF THE SAINTS

P. Praise the Lord, Who came in the flesh!

C. **Praise Emmanuel, God with us!**

P. He chose as His vessel one so fair,

C. **A young virgin, meek and mild.**

P. And the angel said, "Hail, Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you."

C. **"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."**

P. Give thanks to God for Mary, Mother of Our Lord.

C. **Obedient disciple and bearer of the eternal Word.**

P. Sing praise to God, sing praise to Him.

C. **Sing praise and thanks for our salvation.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your only 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 Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

+ WORD +

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; [EMI]
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..

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:1-9

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; let us exalt God's name together.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall ever be in my mouth.

²**I will glory in the Lord;**
let the lowly hear and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt His name together.

⁴**I sought the Lord, and He answered me**
and delivered me out of all my terror.

⁵Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶**I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me**
and saved me from all my troubles.

⁷The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him,
and He will deliver them.

⁸**Taste and see that the Lord is good;**
happy are they who trust in Him!

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

In the promise of the Incarnation, Jesus Christ embodies God's heart, in love claiming people as adopted children. A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians.

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.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom...

HOLY GOSPEL: St. 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.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁶Mary 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."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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P. ... Lord, in Your mercy,	
C. hear our prayer.	
SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD	
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+ MEAL +	
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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER	
P. You are indeed holy ... accomplished our salvation.	
C. Amen.	
P. In the night in ... the Lord's death until He comes.	
C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.	
P. Lord God, send now Your Holy Spirit ... both now and forever.	
C. Amen.	
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POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
P. Jesus Christ, You have given . . . Lord forevermore. C. Amen.	
+ SENDING +	
BENEDICTION	
P. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His love. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.	
C. Amen	

CLOSING HYMN

Signs and Wonders



1 Signs and won - ders lead the danc - ing from the heart God frees from fear:
2 Hope and free - dom join the cir - cle: Mar - y to the gar - den came,
3 Cast a - side all fear and hid - ing; hand in hand we dance the round.



wings of an - gels greet the mai - den, and God finds a dwell - ing here;
saw the ra - diance of the mar - vel, heard the Ris - en call her name;
God is with us, Christ, a - bid - ing, and the Spir - it's gifts a - bound.



bold - ly may we lift our hands, bow the head, and voice A - men;
bold - ly may we heed Christ's call, step be - yond the gar - den wall:
Called by God to ho - li - ness, let us bold - ly serve and bless;



thus does glo - ry shine at mid - night: o - pen hearts in - vite the star - light.
beau - ti - ful the feet pro - ceed - ing with good news of death's de - feat - ing.
and to hearts that sigh and hun - ger may our lives dance signs and won - ders.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

THOSE WHO SERVE:

Ministers: All the People of God

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

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Reader: Sara Wollum

Camera: Josh Sumption

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Katie Munter

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Enter the Song

God has a way of using the most unlikely people to bring forth God's life-giving power in the world. The words of praise in our gospel today, sung by an unlikely and seemingly unimportant young woman from Galilee, are indicative of the ways God invites those most overlooked to be carriers of hope. These prophetic words of Mary have become a life source for the oppressed, downtrodden, and brokenhearted over thousands of years.

In Mary's song, we hear of a world in which those who suffer are comforted. Those who are hungry are filled with sustenance. Those who hoard the world's resources are sent away empty-handed. The invisible are seen. Those who have been silenced are given a voice. Those who don't matter take center stage. God's love is the center and source of all things.

Mary not only experienced the life-giving power of God in her very body, but also carried with her the stories of her ancestors, stories of a God who is faithful to God's

people again and again. She knew the songs, prayers, and promises that had sustained her people in the midst of seemingly impossible circumstances, when the people of God had felt lost and alone, at the mercy of unfair and power-hungry rulers, and in a place of isolation, fear, broken relationships, and misplaced trust.

Mary knew that God had been faithful then, and trusted that God would again be faithful to her. She sang out her song in hope and wonder, carrying the stories of all the people who went before her in faith, inviting those coming after her to join in the same hopeful singing.

It is a prophetic proclamation that reverberates throughout the cosmos today. Let's enter this song together as we too proclaim God's reign of justice and mercy.

Upcoming Commemorations

August 20, 2021 Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

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.

You are invited to attend the

Service of Holy Communion with the Installation of

The Rev. Dr. Dee Pederson

as Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Saturday, October 9, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Reception to follow

Granite Falls Lutheran Church

350 9th Avenue

Granite Falls, MN 56214

RSVP: www.swmnelca.org/installation