

Lk 1:46 And Mary said:"My soul magnifies the Lord,
1:47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.
1:48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
1:49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me,And holy is His name.
1:50 And His mercy is on those who fear HimFrom generation to generation.
1:51 He has shown strength with His arm;He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
1:52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones,And exalted the lowly.
1:53 He has filled the hungry with good things,And the rich He has sent away empty.
1:54 He has helped His servant Israel,In remembrance of His mercy,
1:55 As He spoke to our fathers,To Abraham and to his seed forever."
1:56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

December 7, 2025 Luke 1:46-56

Sermon Title: "His mercy extends to generations without end"

[From Today's Sermon]

The second Advent candle has been lit. Next week is Christmas worship, and the Advent Bible readings continue to advance the story toward the Lord's birth.

"How can this be, since I am a virgin?" Mary's response expressed her desire to play a part in God's wonderful plan, yet her conviction that she lacked the ability. It seemed impossible. No matter how she thought about it, she felt incapable of being useful in her current state. But the angel's answer was: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be holy and will be called the Son of God... Your relative Elizabeth is also expecting a child in her old age... For nothing is impossible with God." Mary hurried to Elizabeth's home. Hearing the comforting words, "Blessed is she who believed that the Lord's promise would be fulfilled," Mary's joy erupted.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. He has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me. His mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation."

The Lord finds us weak and uncertain, appoints us, strengthens us, uses us, accomplishes great things, and fills us with joy.

Good morning, everyone.

The second Advent candle is lit. Next week is Christmas worship.

The Advent scripture passages also advance steadily toward the story of the Lord's birth.

"How can this be, since I am a virgin?" I want to play a part in the realization of God's wonderful work, but I lack the ability. It's impossible. No matter how she thought about it, she couldn't see how she could be of any use in her current situation. That was Mary's response. But the angel's answer was: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be holy and will be called the Son of God... Even your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son in her old age... For nothing is impossible with God." Mary hurried off to Elizabeth's house. Hearing the comforting words, "Blessed is she who believed that the Lord's promise would be fulfilled," Mary's joy burst forth. Nothing is impossible with God. Nothing is impossible for God. This is also a great comfort to us.

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be holy and will be called the Son of God."

When the Holy Spirit wills it. On that day of Pentecost, did not the disciples begin to speak in foreign languages they had never learned, praising God's mighty deeds? When the power of the Most High comes upon us, we can fulfill the testimony of the holy Son, Jesus, the Son of God.

Mary, journeying to Elizabeth. Hearing the comforting words, "Blessed is she who believed that what the Lord has said to her would be fulfilled," Mary's joy burst forth.

What the Lord has spoken will surely be fulfilled.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

55:9 As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

55:10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without

watering the earth and making it bud and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

55:11 So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

55:12 You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

55:13 The thorn shall be replaced by the myrtle tree, and the brier by the myrtle bush; they shall be to the Lord a memorial, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Lord already knew that Mary would not conceive in the usual way. And in such circumstances, by the power of the Most High, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the event occurred where “the child to be born will be holy and will be called the Son of God.” God had already planned for everything to proceed smoothly, even though she faced the risk of facing unfounded accusations and difficulties from her betrothed (her fiancé, understood at that time to be equivalent to being legally married).

Matthew 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

1:19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

1:20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

1:23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, “God is with us”).

1:24 After Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife.

1:25 But he did not know her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus.

“Blessed is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her.”

“For nothing is impossible with God.”

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

God's plan is a plan for our best.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Matthew 7:7 Ask and it will be given to you; Seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.

7:8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

7:9 If any of you asks his son for bread, will he give him a stone?

7:10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a snake?

7:11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

7:12 Therefore, whatever you desire that men would do to you, do also to them. For this is the Law and the Prophets.

God is faithful; He will deliver us from trials we cannot bear and give us good things. Live within His plan. No matter how weak you feel, no matter how impossible something seems, still believe in and hope for the God who can do the impossible. The Lord promises us victory and blessing. Let us fix our eyes on the One who can do the impossible in all things, without being distracted by what we can do ourselves, confident that His protection and words of blessing will surely come to pass.

By faith, Mary blew away all her anxieties and, without seeing it with her own eyes, burst into joy at the wonderful thing God had done, fully believing it had been accomplished.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves.

4:8 We are hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

4:9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

4:10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

4:11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, This is so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh.

4:12 So death works in us, but life works in you.

4:13 As it is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, and we speak.

4:14 For we know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you before him.

4:15 Everything is for your benefit, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

4:18 We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

11:2 For by it the ancients gained approval.

11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was declared righteous—God himself testifying about his gifts. Though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith.

11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he did not see death; and he was not found because God had taken him. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

11:7 By faith Noah, being warned about things not yet seen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the salvation of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

11:9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

11:10 For he looked forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

11:11 By faith even Sarah herself received power to conceive, though she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had made the promise.

11:12 In this way, from one man as good as dead came a multitude as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

11:13 All these died in faith, without having received the promises, but having seen them from afar and welcomed them with joy, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

11:14 By this they acknowledged that they were seeking a homeland.

11:15 If they had been thinking of the land from which they had come, they would have had opportunity to return.

11:16 But as it is, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 1:45 Blessed is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

1:46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord,

1:47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

1:48 He has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

1:49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is his name,

1:50 and his mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

I had always sensed God's wonderful plan somewhere in the back of my mind. I had always sensed that God is wonderful and does wonderful things. But now, God has revealed it right before my eyes. That someone as small as me would be involved in something so astonishing, something concerning the salvation of the world. I had been found by God long ago, known by God. That God would be so near to me, that He would choose someone like me to reveal His amazing plan of salvation and grace! She bursts forth with joy mixed with astonishment.

1:46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

1:47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

1:48 For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

1:49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—and holy is his name.

1:50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

The Lord is to be praised. He is to be magnified, magnified greatly. We stand before such a great, such a real, such a mighty Lord of grace who reigns before us, the God who is our Savior. Do we not forget these things in the busyness of our daily lives? Do we not sometimes go about our days forgetting that we are placed within the protection of such a great, such a profoundly gracious and loving Lord, that we are powerfully guarded? Advent is a time for a deep cleaning of our faith, an inventory of our faith, a stock-taking of God's gracious events.

"The Mighty One has done great things for me." The Mighty One knows this lowly servant, uses me, and accomplishes great works through me.

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

1:49 For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

1:50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

His name is holy, and His mercy extends to those who fear Him from generation to generation.

1 Peter 2:6 As it is written in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a chosen, precious cornerstone, and he who believes in Him will never be put to shame."

The faith of those who trust in the Lord, who rely on Him, will not end in disappointment. For those who fear the Lord, His mercy endures from generation to generation. This is the nature of the holy God, as Mary, filled with the Holy Spirit, declared.

As seen in verses 50 and 54, the Lord is a God of "mercy." He is a God filled with compassion,

mercy, kindness, and generosity toward sinners, enemies, and the weak—a God of sympathy and pity.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

4:15 This High Priest is not one who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way, just as we are—yet without sin.

4:16 So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

How comforting it is to know that the God who rules this world is so merciful and sympathetic to our weaknesses!

1:51 The Lord has shown his power with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

1:52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones and exalted those of low degree.

1:53 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

1:54 The Lord has not forgotten to be gracious; He has remembered His servant Israel,

1:55 as He promised to Abraham our father and to his descendants forever.

The world is filled with fierce events that make one think, “Where is the Lord's mercy?” Injustice and wrongdoing run rampant. Yet we are told it is not so. The powerful are the protagonists; a mere handful of them reign over the many without fear of the Lord, according to their own selfish desires. Seeing the righteous made to look like fools, one might be tempted to give up on prayer. Yet I came to understand that the God whose name is holy sees all things and has been listening to my lament. Therefore, Mary's joy explodes. The word that frequently appears in the Advent Scripture passages is “joy”—and not just any joy, but “extraordinary, surpassing joy.”

1:51 He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

1:52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

1:53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

1:54 The Lord has remembered his mercy, to help his servant Israel,

1:55 as he promised to Abraham our father and his descendants forever.

We are not forsaken—this is the core of the message, is it not? Here too, the Lord wields His mighty arm. He does not overlook the injustices of this world.

I believe this refers to those whose hearts are proud and exalted—those who do not fear the Lord. I think these are people who think only of themselves. Those in power. Here, such proud-hearted individuals wield power as they please, treating it as their private possession, displaying an attitude that fears not the Lord. They are devoid of mercy, steeped only in the pride of their power, failing to govern with the compassion the Lord would show. This is the kind of ruler being described. “The rich man hungry...” This follows the words “the hungry man.” While there are those who have sown and gone without food for days, whose lives are in danger if they do not eat today, how can those who are proud, who privatize power, who are intoxicated with wealth yet stingy, who close their hearts to compassion, thinking it none of their concern if people starve and collapse—how can such people understand the God of mercy?

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love remains in death.

3:15 You know that everyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and no murderer has eternal life residing in them.

3:16 By this we know what love is: Jesus gave his life for us. And we ought to give our lives for our brothers and sisters.

3:17 If anyone has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need but closes their heart against them, how does God's love abide in them?

3:18 Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth.

The Lord scatters and brings low those who have no compassion and do not live in God's heart, returning them hungry. But He looks with compassion on the weak and small, strengthening and lifting them up, and satisfying them with good things.

1:54 The Lord has not forgotten His mercy; He has helped His servant Israel,
1:55 as He promised to Abraham our father and his descendants forever.

The Lord does not forget His promise of blessing. The Lord is a merciful God. Though mighty, He looks upon the lowly and the hungry.

God does not forget His covenant and mercy toward His servant Abraham. This is so that Abraham's glorious calling may be preserved. We have been entrusted with the calling to be God's people, His treasured people. Therefore, we are never excluded from God's mercy.

Genesis 12:1 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

12:2 I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Deuteronomy 7:6 You are a holy people to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his treasured possession.

7:7 It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples. You were the fewest of all peoples.

7:8 But because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors, he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

7:10 But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be lenient, but will repay to the face of those who hate him.

7:11 Therefore, you must keep the commands, decrees, and laws I am giving you today and obey them.

7:12 If you listen to these laws and obey them, the Lord your God will keep the covenant he swore to your ancestors and show you his love.

7:13 He will bless your children and the produce of your land—your grain, new wine, and oil—and the offspring of your cattle and sheep in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

7:14 You will be blessed above all peoples. None of your men or women will be childless, nor will any of your livestock be childless.

7:15 The Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will not inflict upon you any of the dreadful diseases of Egypt, which you know, but will inflict them upon all who hate you.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

2:10 For you were once not a people, but now you are God's people; you were once not shown mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

7:13 Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate that leads to destruction is wide, and the road is broad, and many enter through it.

7:14 But the gate that leads to life is narrow, and the road is hard, and few find it.

7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

7:16 You will know them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

7:17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

7:18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

7:20 So then, by their fruits you will recognize them.

John 8:12 Jesus also spoke to the people, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Hebrews 10:32 Remember those early days after you were enlightened, when you endured a great struggle with suffering.

10:33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated.

10:34 Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

10:35 And do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may

receive what is promised.

10:37 "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not delay.

10:38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

10:39 But we are not of those who draw back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship. You have looked upon me, small and insignificant, and Your mighty One is with me to accomplish great things. Your name is exalted, and Your mercy endures forever toward those who fear You. Do not forget Your mercy; help Your servant. I greatly exalt the Lord; my soul rejoices in the Savior beyond measure. Lead all who suffer into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.