

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

[He has] lifted up the lowly. (v52b)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, & come. With your abundant grace & might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy & serve you always, for you live & reign with the Father & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 1:46b-55

⁴⁶And 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, & 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, & lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, & 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 & to his descendants forever.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Read all of *Luke 1*. How many references to the Holy Spirit do you find? What does this tell you? See *Romans 8:1-17; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Ephesians 4:23-24*
2. Compare the Gospel reading to *Luke 6*. What connections do you find? What about *Micah 6:8? See Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Proverbs 21:3; Jeremiah 22:3; 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Amos 5:24; Matthew 5:17-18*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. The Magnificat, Mary’s song in *vv46b-55*, is one of the most beloved passages in Scripture. What do you find enlightening, edifying, & encouraging in it? What makes it relatable to believers not in the “first-world” of economically developed nations? How about believers in the past not living in representative democracies?
4. The Magnificat also holds a mirror up to us so that we may see ourselves, warts & all. Where is the Lord preparing you for Jesus’ arrival by calling you to repent of being the king of the hill, top of the heap? Your pride? Power? Prestige? Privilege? Pedigree? Personality traits (flaws)? Position? Impiety? Purpose or ambition? Passion or greed/gluttony? Politics? What awaits your failure to repent (*vv51-53*)? See *2 Peter 2:1-10a*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. What are your neighborhood/community’s overlooked, ignored, or hidden injustices? What problems exist that current power structures don’t (won’t or can’t) address? How can your congregation serve those in need in these situations? See *Acts 3:1-11, 4:5-22, 5:12-16; Galatians 2:10; 1 Peter 3:8-17*
6. St. Mary is young & very poor. She’s also, for right now, a single mom-to-be, & staying with a relative (i.e. not living at home with her parents). A recent US Census Bureau report showed only 17.8% of US households are married parents with children under 18. How is your congregation serving people like St. Mary? What can it do to be helpful & useful beyond give-aways?

Magnifying the Details

No detail will be overlooked, no matter how insignificant or hidden it seems

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: My soul magnifies the Lord,
& my spirit rejoices in God my Savior (*vv46b-47*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Here I am, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word. (*Luke 1:38*)

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

[He has] lifted up the lowly. (v52b)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, & come. With your abundant grace & might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy & serve you always, for you live & reign with the Father & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 1:46b-55

⁴⁶And 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, & 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, & lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, & 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 & to his descendants forever.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Read all of *Luke 1*. How many references to the Holy Spirit do you find? What does this tell you? *See Romans 8:1-17; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Ephesians 4:23-24*
2. Compare the Gospel reading to *Luke 6*. What connections do you find? What about *Micah 6:8*? *See Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Proverbs 21:3; Jeremiah 22:3; 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Amos 5:24; Matthew 5:17-18*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. The Magnificat, Mary’s song in *vv46b-55*, is one of the most beloved passages in Scripture. What do you find enlightening, edifying, & encouraging in it? What makes it relatable to believers not in the “first-world” of economically developed nations? How about believers in the past not living in representative democracies?
4. The Magnificat also holds a mirror up to us so that we may see ourselves, warts & all. Where is the Lord preparing you for Jesus’ arrival by calling you to repent of being the king of the hill, top of the heap? Your pride? Power? Prestige? Privilege? Pedigree? Personality traits (flaws)? Position? Impiety? Purpose or ambition? Passion or greed/gluttony? Politics? What awaits your failure to repent (*vv51-53*)? *See 2 Peter 2:1-10a*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. What are your neighborhood/community’s overlooked, ignored, or hidden injustices? What problems exist that current power structures don’t (won’t or can’t) address? How can your congregation serve those in need in these situations? *See Acts 3:1-11, 4:5-22, 5:12-16; Galatians 2:10; 1 Peter 3:8-17*
6. St. Mary is young & very poor. She’s also, for right now, a single mom-to-be, & staying with a relative (i.e. not living at home with her parents). A recent US Census Bureau report showed only 17.8% of US households are married parents with children under 18. How is your congregation serving people like St. Mary? What can it do to be helpful & useful beyond give-aways?

Magnifying the Details

No detail will be overlooked, no matter how insignificant or hidden it seems

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: My soul magnifies the Lord,
& my spirit rejoices in God my Savior (*vv46b-47*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Here I am, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word. (*Luke 1:38*)