

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55

He has lifted up the lowly. (v52)

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, & come. With your abundant grace & might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live & reign with the Father & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her & said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words & pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb & bear a son, & you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, & will be called the Son of the Most High, & the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, & the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; & this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. If St. Mary knew her Bible stories (& she probably did) how do the following give credence to the Gabriel's words in v37? *See Genesis 12:1-5, 15:1-6, 17:1-6, 15-19, 18:9-15, 25:19-24, 30:1-2, 22-24; Judges 13; 1 Samuel 1:1-20, 2:1-10; 2 Kings 4:8-17; Psalm 113:9; see also Number 27:1-11 & this odd story- Genesis 38*
2. How do the following stories do the same for v35? *See Numbers 11:16-17, 24-30, 27:12-19; Deuteronomy 34:9; Judges 3:7-11, 13:2-5; Isaiah 7:1-17; 1 Samuel 11:6, 16:13, 2 Kings 2:9-15; Ezekiel 11:5; do your Bible's study notes lead you to others?*

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

3. First remember your Baptism & review the [Small Catechism](#). Now look in a mirror & recite out loud vv28, 30, 35a ("The Holy...upon you.) substitute *your own name* for *Mary*, & *me* for the *you*. How does that sound? How does your Baptism make it true? How does it change the stakes in your everyday life? *Note: generally speaking, the things said about St. Mary can be applied spiritually to all believers* [SC available bookofconcord.org](#)
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. Consider the following: *2 Samuel 22:4; Psalms 17:6, 18:3, 55:16, 141:1; Isaiah 55:6, Jeremiah 29:12; Joel 2:31; Romans 10:13.* How can you use the Magnificat (*Luke 1:46b-55*) to pray with someone else in need of the Lord's deliverance?
6. Consider *Exodus 34:6-7 & Luke 1:48, 50, 55*; what will you do in 2024 to ensure a living faith is cultivate in the next generation? *See James 2:14-17*

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Series: Love in the Ruins

12.24.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

No Castle or Throne
*God desires human lives lived to the fullest,
and nothing is impossible with God.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: For nothing will be impossible with God. (v37)

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

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