

**Series Series:** The Canticles of Advent

**Sermon title:** The Magnificat

**Scripture reading:** Luke 1:46-56

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

November 28, 2021

S.C. Brown, Pastor

## Opening Scripture: Psalm 34

### Introduction:

We will take a look over the next 4 weeks at The Songs of Advent; 4 declarations of praise in the book of Luke.

Today- Mary's *Magnificat*

Next week- Zechariah's *Benedictus*

Then we will look at the Angels' *Gloria In Excelsis Deo*.

And lastly we will look at Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis*.

At our **Christmas Eve service** we will look at the birth of Jesus Christ in full.

### Let's pray.

As we begin **Advent** today and the lead up to Christmas, it is my hope for myself and my family, as well as you and yours, that over the next 4 weeks we will magnify the Lord and rejoice in God our Savior like we never have before.

We can learn a lot today from our sister Mary.

## I. Mary Magnifies God for his Provision.

Her praise is in response to 2 things that happen before her song of praise.

1. To the visitation and declaration by the angel Gabriel of who this child would be.

**Verses 26-38**

2. To Elizabeth's declaration that Mary is the mother of her 'Lord'. **Verses 39- 45**

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1. To the visitation and declaration by the angel Gabriel of who this child would be. **Verses 26-38**

**26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

**28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the

throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

**34** And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” **35** And the angel answered her, “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 called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**2.** To Elizabeth’s declaration that Mary is the mother of her ‘Lord’. **Verses 39- 45**

**39** In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, **40** and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, **42** and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! **43** And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For

behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

So, these 2 things are the reason why Mary breaks out into praise; because of what the angel Gabriel declared to her and because of what Elizabeth shouted out through the Holy Spirit.

The Messiah is coming, finally. And Mary is going to give birth to him.

So, **Mary Magnifies God for his provision of the Messiah....and**

## **II. Mary Magnifies God for Privileging her.**

### **Verses 46-50**

**46** And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
**48** for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; **49** for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
**50** And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Of all of the women on the planet who have ever lived, there is only one woman like Mary. What a privilege! She is overwhelmed. She gets to be the earthly mother of God the Son incarnate.

Can you stop and think now of the weight of that privilege?

Mary's response is to speak of the overflow of her heart, which happens to be the word of God.

Her praise no doubt echos the prayer of Hannah in 1 Samuel 2. She has likely memorized this as a young girl. So she breaks out in praise that is a mix of Hannah's prayer and the Psalms.

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
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**50** And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

She magnifies God because he has privileged her. He has poured out his grace on her in a way that no one has ever experienced and never will; God chose her to give birth to the Son of God!

Now, we might pause for a second and say that some in the world think too highly of this and end up worshipping Mary along with Jesus.

But many Protestants think too low of this. Mary is a great woman of faith and holiness and should be admired and honored as a dear sister in the Lord.

She magnifies God for his provision of the Messiah. She magnifies God for his privileging her. And....she magnifies God for his power.

### **III. Mary Magnifies God for his Power.**

#### **Verses 51-53**

**51** He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; **52** he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; **53** he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

Notice that this is all declaring what great things God has done in the PAST. "He has".....

She looks back in her heart and mind and draws from the Scriptures that she has learned and remembers what God has done **by his power.**

For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— **33** who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, **34** quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. **35** Women received back their dead by resurrection. **Hebrews 11:32-35**

#### **IV. Mary magnifies God for his Promises.**

##### **Verses 54-55**

**54** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, **55** as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

The word, ‘offspring’ here gives us a clue as to what Mary is thinking. It’s a reference to the promise made to Abraham in **Genesis 13:14-17**

**14** The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, **15** for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. **16** I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can

be counted. **17** Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.”

Mary knows God word.

Mary understands what is going on and believes.

She magnifies God for his provision of the Messiah, Abraham’s offspring that was promised long ago.

She magnifies God for his privilege of choosing her to carry and give birth to the Son of God.

She magnifies God for his power in accomplishing the things in the past and for what he is now doing.

## **APPLICATION**

**Mary’s proclaims to the Gospel to us.**

**Verse 50** his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

If you are not a Christian, God extends his mercy to sinners. Christ died on the cross for our sins. Confess to God that you are a sinner and turn to Christ to save you. God will extend his mercy to all who call on Christ.

Christians, we have a lot to praise and magnify the Lord God Almighty for this Advent. Just as Mary did.



“Mary’s hymn is a story not only about herself but about all those who fear God and are objects of his mercy and grace.” **Darrell Bock**

**Provision-** What has he provided for you?

**Privilege-** How privileged are you and I to know Jesus.

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Power-** How have you seen God work mightily for you? What has he done for you?

**Promises-** Has God been faithful to his promises to you? What has he promised to do for you in the future?

**Let me close by reading 1 Peter 1:3-9**

**Let us this Advent season follow the example of our sister Mary and magnify the Lord and rejoice in God our Savior.**