

Saint Mary, Mother of Our Lord

August 15

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Luke 1:46-55

12th Sunday after Pentecost 2021

Join Mary in standing in awe of our Savior God.

- *St. Mary's Ev. Lutheran Church* - Ever heard of one? What's your reaction?
 - ◆ Google found two: one in MD dating to 1762, one in Kenosha, WI
 - ◆ Maria Lutheran Church (Swedish heritage) in Hershey, NE
 - ◆ A Finnish Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Russia - 1805
 - ◆ Frauenkirche (Our Lady Church) in Dresden - built to celebrate Lutheran theology
 - ◆ August 15 - celebrate God's work in and through Mary, Mother of Our Lord
- Every Minor Festival celebrates God's work through one of his servants.
 - ◆ Marvel what God can work through sinners (exception: St. Michael & All Angels)
 - ◆ See how God served us through the service of each servant observed
 - ◆ See what God can work in us - his servants through faith - cf. the list in Hebrews 11

Join Mary in standing in awe of our Savior God.

- Common human foolishness gives all the honor to those who do great things
 - ◆ This ignores those who helped them & God who gave them gifts & opportunities
 - ◆ God does **not** choose people because **they** are special!
 - ◆ Chosen by God is *chosen by undeserved love* for a special task or role
 - God's *Chosen People* - *Israel* who proved very good at being bad
 - Mary - whose song sets the record straight. Let it tune our hearts!
- ❖ Look how blessed Mary was!
 - *Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.*
 - *Blessed* is not earned! God bestowed this blessings on Mary by **his** gracious choice.
 - **Not** for great things Mary did! But the great things the Mighty One did **for** her.
 - ◆ The incarnation of her Savior **in** her was also **for** her - a great and mighty wonder
 - ◆ God had worked impressively in young Mary preparing her for this servant role.
 - She was not surprised when the angel spoke of her virgin born son, called the Son of the Most High, the descendant of David reigning forever - the God/Man.
 - Mary's knowledge of Scripture - God's works and promises - impressive!
 - Clear in her response to Gabriel's message and in this Song
 - By the faith God worked in Mary - she considered it an honor to be his servant
 - Rescued from serving sin and Satan to serve as God's fully forgiven servant.
 - Her hope in God's promises gave her confidence of her purpose and future, even as a young woman considered by society to a *no body* - her *humble state*.
 - ◆ God equipped Mary for the challenging task of being the Mother of Our Lord.
 - Leaving it to God to deal with the gossip - how she became pregnant
 - Trusting God to deal with the unknowns of her absolutely unique role.
 - Equipped to absorb & ponder the words of the shepherds, Simeon - give witness
 - God would get her through witnessing her son mistreated, rejected, & crucified
 - Being the mother of her sinless Savior when she is not sinless - humbling
 - By the faith God worked - she trusted her Lord would help her serve & survive.
 - In all these ways God blessed Mary to be the woman servant of Genesis 3:15

- The God who worked faith's great things in Mary is at work in you & me too.
- Those who desire the blessings of God confess:
 - ♦ ***His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.***
 - ♦ *fear him* = *revere him as God alone* = *stand in awe of the Most High God*
 - ♦ Worshiping the Living God as my God and Lord with my whole life.
 - ♦ Living as his special servants made in his image walking in fellowship with my Lord and Father - to his glory, praise, and honor. Treat him as my God.
 - That's what we were made for. That is real life! It doesn't get any better.
- ❖ Sing the Song of Mary to stay focused on living a life of reverence for God.
 - The opposite of reverence for God - make yourself your lord and master.
 - ♦ ***those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.***
 - ♦ δἰα νοῖα - understanding; disposition; imagination; opinion; way of thinking
 - *So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you.* Romans 12:3
 - ♦ Standing in awe of yourself - your opinion & thinking = self-worship
 - ♦ This is idolatry. You've chosen a different god, not your Creator, the Giver of All
 - ♦ God brings down rulers, like Nebuchadnezzar who set himself on God's throne.
 - ♦ God's Kingdom has one God. All other *wannabe gods* are dethroned by God.
 - ♦ Those impressed with their abundance (position, gifts, possessions - what they reverence) *he sends away empty*, out of his blessed presence - with NOTHING.
 - That's what hell is: out of God's blessed presence to a place of unfulfilled longing.
 - We who revere God - revere him on multiple levels for many reasons. We:
 - ♦ know we were created to be his servants - the highest honor to serve the Lord!
 - ♦ know our humble state as broken sinners - frail, failing, unworthy, yet saved!
 - ♦ rely on God's mercy - his heart for us in our pitiful condition of sin's defects.
 - ♦ stand in awe of God that he has chosen us to be his own & rescued us.
 - ♦ hunger and thirst for God's righteousness - restored to be what he made us to be
 - Confident that this is exactly what he wants to give us - satisfy faith's longing
 - ♦ stand in awe of his promises and plan carried out for us - unailing forever.
 - I marvel that these are Mary's own words - what faith and insight - so young!

Join Mary in standing in awe of our Savior God.

- ♦ So instructive - centering - keeping this focus - live to see how BIG our God is!
- ♦ These words will help us live in the reality that we are blessed:
 - for God has done great things for us.
 - for he promises to bless his people - those who revere him.
 - keeping our focus is on him, not ourselves. We are lifted up when he is glorified.
- If we were to rename our congregation: Magnificat Ev. Lutheran Church or The Ev. Lutheran Church of the Song of Mary it would be a call to magnify the Savior God.