

You heard God's Word from Moses, **The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among you, from your brothers.** We know, The Prophet, the promised Christ, God in the flesh, shares our humanity.

He's truly **the Seed of the Woman** that God promised to send to smash the Serpent's head –right after the fall in the Garden of Eden. This prophecy, repeated again and again, handed down generation to generation, 1000s of years. This promise survived the destruction of Israel, the temple, captivity in Babylon, proclaimed by prophets. And in every generation, empires, powerful men, Satan have worked to destroy it, throughout every age, **from generation to generation.** To even reach you. The moment Mary became pregnant, the fabric of the universe irrevocably and wonderfully changed. The Holy Trinity acted in space and time, a virgin conceived, God became a Man of both human and divine natures.

The world gets itself twisted into knots trying to define what it means to be human, while an aggressive anti-Christian culture pits one group against another –including the born against those in the womb –we see a beautiful biblical illustration of not only what it means to be human, but how beautiful God's created order is, of the sacred vocation of motherhood, of life from the womb, of family. The devil hates God's works, especially motherhood, babies, marriage –as he works in the world and through people to destroy it all, too many listen to the lies. So we must stand, confess against the evil and hatred in our day that opposes God and violation of His created order.

When Elizabeth heard the sound of Mary's voice, John leaped for joy in her womb. Don't be taken-in by the rhetoric of those who would deny full humanity to the unborn. And be done with any notion that babies in the womb, infants, have no relationship with God. Scripture says otherwise; even Jesus very own words on this, and here, St. John kicks against all who would deny faith to infants.

And we see what happens when God takes flesh, when the Word invades the world. We see pure divine goodness and mercy, pure holy love that the world can only hate. But in spite of the devil's rage and the world's mockery –the rescue goes from the womb of Mary.

There is no force on earth that can stop this divine plan from going forward even coming to you. The attempts to murder the child Jesus will fail. The arrest and execution of John the Baptist will not stop his preaching, you still hear it.

These two babies in the womb are more powerful than the Roman Empire itself, and even today, the Gospel is more mighty than all the empires, might, power of man to destroy it. The Word of God is still a threat to the powers that be, and we see them still trying in vain to silence it.

So look how the Lord works with people who are insignificant, nobodies that don't matter to the world. Just as Mary or Elizabeth. God chooses you, intervenes in your life. His angels rejoice over your repentance. His words of comfort, promise to you are not empty. Words that are, and will be, fulfilled, as sure as the Virgin bore a Son.

Blessed is she who believed there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord. A fulfillment of what? What does she believe, what had been told to her? A pregnancy. A virgin birth. She's going to be a mother; her baby will be a

king; His kingdom will have no end; that in her womb is the Christ, which means, she's the mother of God. The Christ promised to Adam and Eve, all God's people awaited 1000s of years –finally here. The fulfillment she believes -this child will save her, all God's people. There's that song you hear this time of year, "Mary did you know?" It's rather silly, she absolutely knew! **She believed there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.** But she couldn't have imagined how. All that will enfold. Mary speaks 'what the Lord will fulfill'. And she will hear 33 years later Him say from the cross **it is fulfilled, finished.**

Blessed are you to believe there will be a fulfillment of what was spoken to you, for you. Why is that so hard for you to believe, live out each day? Repent. Embrace all that is yours. **Rejoice. The Lord is at hand. Do not be anxious about anything.**

Blessed are you who believe, there will be a fulfillment of what was spoken to you from the Lord. And what has He told you. **I baptized you; I forgive you all your sins. Take eat this is my body, take drink this is my blood; you are mine. You are holy. Nothing is lacking; there is no one left to accuse you. I am with you always. My peace I give you. I give you eternal life.** A fulfillment. All of it! All of it. The life, suffering, death of Jesus stands in your place, the resurrections seals it for you. All the things the Lord has spoken to you will be fulfilled. And so, you're blessed.

But it might not always feel that way. Like a women pregnant but not showing. It's true. What God has said about you is more true than what you or your neighbors say or think about you.

Mary's song, Magnificat, also your song, **for He who is mighty has done great things for me. He has shown strength with His arm. He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts, brought down the mighty from their thrones; exalted those humble.** But where? We don't see this. You do by faith. To know what truly matters in this world. Strength in the arms of a man who hangs for you, true power and might from God. The proud, those who exalt themselves are exposed in foolishness before God; their greatest, thrones, their might is but an illusion; they seek things that never satisfy. Those rich in themselves, in self-righteousness, rich in worldly treasures, sent empty away- really have nothing.

He exalts the humble estate of sinners, those who confess their sins; you are the **filled the hungry with good things.** Not about stuff this time of year, but those **who hunger and thirst for righteousness,** filled with God who comes from Mary's womb, filled with His forgiveness, filled with His Word, with His life.

He has provided the answer to all your woes in Mary's womb, promised **to our fathers, fulfilled, to his offspring, to you forever.** Are you weighed down with many things? What truly matters? With eternity before our very eyes, ponder with Mary what great things He has done to you. **My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior.** What Mary sang the first advent, your song, no less. You who're loved by the Lord no less than He loves Mary, Elizabeth, and John. Mingle your praise with theirs and the holy angels. Blessed is she. Blessed are you, says the Lord. **For He who is mighty has done great things for... you.**