

INTRO: Thanks, again, Pastor Weber, for allowing me to occupy your pulpit. But as I said last Wednesday, this sermon's structure is like that of last week. (I,II,III) Also, this song has a Latin name, Ave Maria, although the modern version has much added. (Hail Mary full of grace...womb Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us...) We will stick with what the Holy Spirit inspired in the Bible.

I. WHO WROTE THIS SONG, AND WHY?

A. Who is Elizabeth?

- 1 wife of priest Zachariah, last week's lyricist
2. Lk.1:7 'barren' 'well advanced in years'
3. cp. Sarah, Mrs. Abraham' 90 years old, Isaac
4. told in writing by husband about Gabriel's visit, message
5. Lk.1:24 Elizabeth conceived...hid herself 5 months
6. "Thus the Lord hath dealt with me..."
7. if made public, talk of the hill country of Judea
8. pregnant 80-year-old in hill country of San Antonio

B. What moved Elizabeth to author this song

1. Lk1:26 in 6th month, Gabriel sent to Mary of Nazareth
2. "How can this be...Holy Spirit..." Elizabeth your relative conceived a son in her old age"
3. 1:39 - Mary went w/ haste...entered house of Zachariah, greeted Liz
4. v.41 greeting...babe leaped in her womb (?)
5. abortion excusis: Dr. Luke **brephos**; also 2:16 lying in a manger
6. Elizabeth was 'filled with the Holy Spirit'
7. **Holy Spirit** inspired Elizabeth's song of God's salvation
8. v.42 'loud voice' suggests Luke is quoting Mary, eyewitness

II. WHAT DO THE SONG LYRICS SAY?

A v.42 1. 'blessed among women' Hebrew superlative; king of kings

2. 'blessed is the fruit of your womb' = parallelism
3. Mary is blessed to be mother of God Incarnate; think on that...
4. also, Jesus is a blessing for the whole world!

B. v.43 1. why me to be thus honored?

2. cp invitation to attend White House inaugural ball
3. young Mary honors old Elizabeth

(continued)

4. apparently traveled alone; 60 miles?
5. oh, to be a fly on the wall to hear these two women!

- C. v.44
1. at Mary's greeting, baby leaped in Elizabeth's womb
 2. ladies, quickening? leaping? foot/fist push?
 3. "for joy" how do you know motive? Holy Spirit
 4. this was John's first meeting with Jesus

- D. v.45
1. "Blessed is she who believed" i.e., Mary
 2. more about Mary next Wednesday
 3. fulfillment...things...told her"
 4. "Son of the Highest...reign forever...kingdom...no end"
 5. once again, it's all about Jesus who is coming, inside Mary

III. HOW DOES THIS SONG RELATE TO US TODAY?

- A. Comparing ourselves with Elizabeth and Mary
1. Mary went with haste to visit an old relative
 2. I wish I had made one more visit to my dying father
 3. a relative, a neighbor; procrastinate
 4. Elizabeth and John greet Jesus with great joy
 5. Todd Borgstrom: boring sermons; same old...law and gospel
 6. some sympathy; I'd tire of Pastor Goetz after 17 years
 7. recapture joy of baby Jesus coming like us (poorer)
- B. Admiring the faith (qua/quae) of these two mothers
1. understanding?! "Hello" "You have God Incarnate inside you"
 2. Elizabeth commends Mary for believing what Gabriel said
 - a. 2nd cousin once removed is 6 months pregnant
 - b. your baby is Jesus, ergo, the world's savior
 - c. throne of David forever = eternal, spiritual kingdom
- C. Elizabeth didn't see what Mary and you and I have seen
1. John preach repentance; point to Jesus; die by Herod
 2. baby Jesus grow; teach; heal; feed; and much more
 3. secretly arrested; publicly crucified
 4. Mary saw Risen, Ascended Jesus; that's my Boy
 5. 'Elizabeth, loud voice'? I think Mary retold these stories

CONCLUSION: Don't criticize Elizabeth for using a loud voice to sing
God's song of salvation. It needs to be heard. Jesus
came to her house! Jesus has come to this house. Jesus will come one
more time to take us to His house. Amen.