

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Luke (Luke 1:39-45) Mary visits Elizabeth

Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are You among women, and blessed is the fruit of Your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of Your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are You who believed that what was spoken to You by the Lord would be fulfilled." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – I am called to announce the Good News

Mary hastened to bring Jesus to others. Mary is full of holy love in Her Immaculate Heart. Even when She realised Her own condition of being pregnant with the Child of God, She never hesitated to visit Elizabeth who was living far away. Mary never thought about Her own comfort and well being. Her desire was to be with Elizabeth to help her in her pregnancy. Above this natural concern was a loftier one. She was burning with zeal to bring the Son of God now present in Her womb to sanctify Elizabeth, Zechariah and their baby yet to be born. Mary knew that Her visit to the household of Zechariah would be no ordinary one. It was no less than a visitation from the Almighty God Himself in the form of His only begotten Son. Nothing could prevent Mary from keeping Jesus to Herself - not even a long, arduous uncomfortable journey.

Blessed are You among women, and blessed is the fruit of Your womb. The Mother of the Lord was visiting Elizabeth that day. As such, an appropriate greeting had to be accorded Mary. Only the Holy Spirit was able to instruct Elizabeth on this. Through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth was given the divine revelation on the condition of Mary. Mary, full of grace, returned all glory to God when greeted by Elizabeth, proclaiming the Magnificat: "My soul glorifies the Lord, My spirit rejoices in God, My Saviour. He looks on His servant in Her lowliness, henceforth all ages will call Me blessed..." Mary teaches me many things in this short prayer. She teaches me that the top priority of my life is to glorify God and that my joy is to be from God. She knows that nothing in this world can give me real and lasting joy but God alone. She revealed that it was her humility, the bedrock of virtues, that made God take notice of Her.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? (Romans 10:14). Mary is the greatest evangelist. She went way out to bring Jesus to others at the earliest opportunity. I, too am called to share the mission of Jesus and Mary to bring the Good News of Jesus to others so that His reign of peace may come about sooner. The world, though denying God, is hungry for the love and peace of Jesus - the rich, the strong and the powerful, the ordinary person walking on the street, the downtrodden, the weak and the marginalised, those very people I see everyday. People seek unrelenting gratification of their senses and place their security on earthly riches because of the void in their hearts due to godlessness. Real lasting peace and security in the world will only start when there is the peace of Christ in every heart, not through the proliferation of weapons. **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27).**

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for the great gift of Your Mother Mary whose motherhood of all mankind was divinely established at the foot of the Cross with St. John representing all of us. Through Baptism, I share Your mission to bring Your Good News to others. Mother Mary set a sterling example. Full of zeal, she could not wait to bring You to others even when You were just conceived in Her womb. Please give me the holy boldness of Mary in bringing hearts and souls to Your Sacred Heart. Let me not be afraid of rejection knowing that they rejected You before. Mother Mary, Protectress of the Faith, help me to become more like You. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.