

Holy Bible Readings – Sunday, December 02, 2018

Visitation of Mary, Mother of God to Elizabeth (*Mizaltho*)

Luke 1: 39-45

- 39 During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
42 cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43 And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
44 For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
45 Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Genesis 24:15-27

- 15 He had scarcely finished speaking when Rebekah—who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor—came out with a jug on her shoulder.
16 The young woman was very beautiful, a virgin, untouched by man. She went down to the spring and filled her jug. As she came up,
17 the servant ran toward her and said, "Please give me a sip of water from your jug."
18 "Drink, sir," she replied, and quickly lowering the jug into her hand, she gave him a drink.
19 When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels, too, until they have finished drinking."
20 With that, she quickly emptied her jug into the drinking trough and ran back to the well to draw more water, until she had drawn enough for all the camels.
21 The man watched her the whole time, silently waiting to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.
22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose-ring weighing half a shekel, and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels for her wrists.
23 Then he asked her: "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please. And is there a place in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

- 24 She answered: "I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.
25 We have plenty of straw and fodder," she added, "and also a place to spend the night."
26 The man then knelt and bowed down to the LORD,
27 saying: "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not let his kindness and fidelity toward my master fail. As for me, the LORD has led me straight to the house of my master's brother."

1 Samuel 2: 1-11

- 1 And Hannah prayed: "My heart exults in the LORD, my horn is exalted by my God. I have swallowed up my enemies; I rejoice in your victory.
2 There is no Holy One like the LORD; there is no Rock like our God.
3 Speak boastfully no longer, do not let arrogance issue from your mouths. For an all-knowing God is the LORD, a God who weighs actions.
4 "The bows of the mighty are broken, while the tottering gird on strength.
5 The well-fed hire themselves out for bread, while the hungry no longer have to toil. The barren wife bears seven sons, while the mother of many languishes.
6 "The LORD puts to death and gives life, casts down to Sheol and brings up again.
7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich, humbles, and also exalts.
8 He raises the needy from the dust; from the ash heap lifts up the poor, to seat them with nobles and make a glorious throne their heritage. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he has set the world upon them.
9 He guards the footsteps of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall perish in the darkness; for not by strength does one prevail.
10 The LORD's foes shall be shattered; the Most High in heaven thunders; the LORD judges the ends of the earth. May he give strength to his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed!"
11 When Elkanah returned home to Ramah, the child remained in the service of the LORD under the priest Eli.

Proverbs 31:10-26

- 10 Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value.
11 Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not lack income.
12 She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her life.

- 13 She seeks out wool and flax and weaves with skillful hands.
- 14 Like a merchant fleet, she secures her provisions from afar.
- 15 She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household, a portion to her maidservants.
- 16 She picks out a field and acquires it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She girds herself with strength; she exerts her arms with vigor.
- 18 She enjoys the profit from her dealings; her lamp is never extinguished at night.
- 19 She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.
- 20 She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy.
- 21 She is not concerned for her household when it snows — all her charges are doubly clothed.
- 22 She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing.
- 23 Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts.
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity, and laughs at the days to come.
- 26 She opens her mouth in wisdom; kindly instruction is on her tongue.

Isiah 29:17-24

- 17 Surely, in a very little while, Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard, and the orchard be considered a forest!
- 18 On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll; and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see.
- 19 The lowly shall again find joy in the LORD, the poorest rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.
- 20 For the tyrant shall be no more, the scoffer shall cease to be; all who are ready for evil shall be cut off,
- 21 those who condemn with a mere word, who ensnare the defender at the gate, and leave the just with an empty claim.
- 22 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of the house of Jacob, who redeemed Abraham: No longer shall Jacob be ashamed, no longer shall his face grow pale.
- 23 For when his children see the work of my hands in his midst, they shall sanctify my name; they shall sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, be in awe of the God of Israel.
- 24 Those who err in spirit shall acquire understanding, those who find fault shall receive instruction.

1 Peter 2:6-10

- 6 For it says in scripture: “Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.”
- 7 Therefore, its value is for you who have faith, but for those without faith: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”
- 8 and “A stone that will make people stumble, and a rock that will make them fall.” They stumble by disobeying the word, as is their destiny.
- 9 But you are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- 10 Once you were “no people” but now you are God’s people; you “had not received mercy” but now you have received mercy.

1 Timothy 2: 4-10

- 3 This is good and pleasing to God our Savior,
- 4 who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.
- 5 For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human,
- 6 who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time.
- 7 For this I was appointed preacher and apostle (I am speaking the truth, I am not lying), teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
- 8 It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument.
- 9 Similarly, [too,] women should adorn themselves with proper conduct, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hairstyles and gold ornaments, or pearls, or expensive clothes,
- 10 but rather, as befits women who profess reverence for God, with good deeds.

Luke 1:39-56

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- 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
- 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
- 42 cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

43 And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
44 For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped
for joy.
45 Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”
46 And Mary said: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
47 my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
48 For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me
blessed.
49 The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
50 His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.
51 He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
52 He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.
53 The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.
54 He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy,
55 according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
56 Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.