

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York
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THE LORD'S DAY

December 22, 2019 8:30 & 10:15 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude David Schmidt
Piano Wendy Baldwin

Carol 258 'Go, Tell It on the Mountain'

Prayer

Lighting of ^{4th} candle to signify the angelic proclamation Luke 2:9-11

Scripture – Psalm 145 (*Congregation reads bold print*) John VanderMey

Announcements

Carol 277 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

Intercessory Prayer Tom Mohr/Mike Duff

Message The Most Wonderful Gifts Rev. Cal VanderMey

Benediction 278 'Angels We Have Heard on High'

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

No Monday - Youth Group 6:30 pm

No Tuesday 6:30 Precept Study on 'Mark' - Wendy Baldwin teaching

No Thursday Precept at 9:15 on 'Revelation' with Margaret Was

Friday - Adult Bible study 7pm - John Woodell teaching

The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol Service at 6:00pm

SCRIPTURE READING

A Song of God's Majesty and Love A Praise of David.

145 I will extol You, my God, O King;

And I will bless Your name forever and ever.

² **Every day I will bless You,**

And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

³ Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

And His greatness *is* unsearchable.

⁴ **One generation shall praise Your works to another,**

And shall declare Your mighty acts.

⁵ I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty,

And on Your wondrous works.

⁶ **Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts,**

And I will declare Your greatness.

⁷ They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness,

And shall sing of Your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,**

Slow to anger and great in mercy.

⁹ The LORD *is* good to all, And His tender mercies *are* over all His works.

¹⁰ **All Your works shall praise You, O LORD,**

And Your saints shall bless You.

¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,

And talk of Your power,

¹² **To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts,**

And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,

And Your dominion *endures* throughout all generations.

¹⁴ **The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down.**

¹⁵ The eyes of all look expectantly to You,

And You give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ **You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.**

¹⁷ The LORD *is* righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.

¹⁸ **The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,**

To all who call upon Him in truth.

¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;

He also will hear their cry and save them.

²⁰ **The LORD preserves all who love Him,**

But all the wicked He will destroy.

²¹ My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD,

And all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever.

The Magnificat: Mary's Hymn of Praise" Luke 1:46-56:

⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm;

He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy,

⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever."

From the first word of Mary's hymn of praise in the Vulgate (Latin) translation, this has been down through the ages known as The Magnificat.

It is Hebrew poetry in thought and manner, as well as in praise and worship. Old Testament citations are throughout the words that Mary gave. Where did she get those verses from the Old Testament? Pious women committed vast numbers of Scriptures to memory in those days. Also, she was speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that would bring to her remembrance those Scriptures.

In verses 46-48, Mary describes her personal emotions and experiences. She is grateful to **God, her Savior**. Then, she gives the reason for her rejoicing—that God has richly favored her. Yes, as I tell many folks who have had a Roman Catholic upbringing, Mary saw God as her Savior. Hence, Mary needed a Savior, which means that Mary was a highly favored human that because of her own closeness to God knew that her own sense of sinfulness meant that she needed the Savior.

In verses 49-50, Mary sings of God's glorious deeds of redemption and of His omnipotence and holiness and His mercy to those that fear Him. Fear of course means reverence and respect.

In verses 51-53, God's choice of two persons of humble life—Mary and Elizabeth—shows how God exalts those who take no account of themselves. There has been a great reversal of roles here, and this is of the greatest significance to all of history. Everything now changes forever—God has invaded human history!

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.