

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA
December 20, 2009 – Rev. Craig A. Patterson

“The Mighty One Has Done Great Things For Me.”

(Text: Luke 1:46-55)

Context: After the angel came to her and announced all of what the LORD was going to do, Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who was expecting a son (even at her advanced age). When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby within Elizabeth’s womb leapt for joy. Elizabeth tells Mary that the baby in her womb leapt for joy at the sound of Mary’s voice. Elizabeth continues on to say, “Blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” In response to Elizabeth’s words, Mary pours forth from her soul beautiful words of praise to God (the Magnificat). “My soul exalts the Lord,” she begins. He “has done great things for me,” she continues. For Mary and for all mankind God was unveiling His loving and mighty plan to give all of mankind a Savior from sin, death, and the devil.

I. The Devil & Evil People Believe That They Are The Ones Who Have Power And The Final Say. (Yet, their power and boastful words and actions are temporary.)

- A. They are proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 - 1. Quoting from Proverbs 3:34, Peter would later write in his first epistle, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (I Peter 5:5).
 - 2. Paul wrote to the Galatians, “Let us not become boastful,” (5:26).
- B. They view those who wait upon the LORD as foolish.
 - 1. Their focus is only upon human strength and human wisdom.
 - a. The Apostle Paul wrote, “...we preach Christ crucified...to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (I Corinthians 1:23-25).
- C. They work hard to be rich in this life. (For riches that will pass away.)
- D. They rejoice in their own accomplishments, not in God’s. (The boast.)

II. Rather, A Merciful, Good, Loving, And Mighty God Is The One Who Has The Final Say. (He is mighty to save.)

- A. The undeserving, sinful masses of humanity will be given a Savior who is Christ the Lord. (This is the only Savior offered to mankind by our Creator, “There is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior.”- Isaiah 45:21)
 - 1. “To some it probably seemed that God had forgotten, but when the time comes, God always remembers as He did here” (Lenski, p. 93)
 - 2. Through the humble virgin, Mary, God has chosen to keep His promise of a Savior for all mankind.
 - 3. Through this humble young woman, God has fulfilled His promise to Israel. (Through Israel, a Savior comes for the entire human race.)
- B. Against all the odds, many will not reject Him, but believe in Him and be saved.
 - 1. Even today in 2009 people are coming to faith in the Savior given to us on the first Christmas through this young, humble virgin.
 - 2. Until the Lord comes again to judge the world, he will keep converting the hearts of sinners to know the one true Savior who is Christ the Lord.
 - 3. In 2010 and beyond, if the Lord does not return, He will keep drawing more and more people to this same Savior in order to be saved.
 - a. “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9).