

Week Four Advent
Blessed are You who believe!

Readings: 1 Micah 5:1-4a • PS 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 • Hebrews 10:5-10 • Luke 1:39-45

One of the most beautiful prayers in Scripture is the praise prayer of Mary which we call the Magnificat. It is purely a prayer of praise and trust in God. Although we don't read this prayer as part of today's Gospel, it is what Mary says to her cousin Elizabeth to describe her joy at saying YES (FIAT) to God. It is a humble prayer praising the mystery and power of God. For both Mary and Elizabeth, God seems to have turned the whole world upside down. Oftentimes, we think we can control our world and then God turns it upside down! As we look at the lives of Mary and Elizabeth and our lives, we know that the mighty have not been chosen. Rather, the humble have been chosen to lead the way. Blessed are we who believe!

And Mary said:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold,
from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Luke 1:46-55

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*"Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*