



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

LUKE 1:46-55

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Mary’s song is one that magnifies God’s work in our world and is sometimes called the Magnificat. It is a parallel to Hannah’s song found in the second chapter of first Samuel. However, Mary gives voice the peacemakers instead of asking for a military-esque intervention. Mary exclaims, “who am I to be chosen? I am lowly. I am poor. I am a peasant.” And yet, God works through her. If God can use someone like Mary, then God can for sure reverse the structures of power. God can scatter the proud absorbed by their own fear, make the mighty and powerful uncomfortable, and fill the hungry while sending those who are unwilling to share away empty.

Mary’s Magnificat is not only a plea asking God to work through, with, and in us, but it is the start of showing a different way of being in community with one another. It is about equity and turning to those whom we do not and did not expect to be our guides. The Magnificat serves as a reminder that God is faithful and divine promises can be trusted, and that God’s trustworthiness is unchangeable over time. So, go forth into your own communities recognizing, proclaiming, and magnifying that God is at work among us. The Spirit is creating something new and is asking each of us to be a part of it, even though we may seem like unlikely characters.

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