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St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord



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From Martin Luther's Sermon for The Day of Mary's Visitation [1532 A.D.] Luke 1:39-56

- 3. . . . [The Virgin Mary] thanks God and sings a beautiful song of praise for us, so that we might learn to live godly lives, both inwardly and outwardly in this world, with joyfulness, thanksgiving, and faith before our God, which is our reasonable service.
- 5. The beloved Virgin adorns herself beautifully by not becoming proud of the honor she has of being the mother of God, to give birth to the Son of God. No one would have been surprised, had she succumbed to haughty arrogance and become more puffed up than Lucifer and his allies. For look how we act, bag of worms that we are! Give us a penny or a gulden, and people can't bear with us blown-up peacocks! A dairymaid with beautiful hair puffs herself up and becomes vain; so too, a young fellow with a splendid coat. Everybody becomes proud, and insolent when they possess something special, be it beauty, skill, money, rank, or whatever; their arrogance knows no limit or bounds. Yet everything is like the dust of the street compared to the great grace which the Virgin has here.
- 9-11. . . . Mary will cut the ground from under all arrogant people. . . . She is the mother of God and the greatest of women in heaven and on earth. [Yet], she forgets all else, every good thing, and with truly humble heart sets out on her way, not ashamed to wash diapers, gently care for and bathe the infant . . . , and so on. Such humility is truly something to behold. It would have been fitting had someone provided her with a gold carriage to ride in, drawn by four thousand horses, with trumpets heralding the carriage's coming, proclaiming that the greatest of all women was approaching, the princess of the whole human race! But there was nothing like this. . . . Men and women everywhere ought to form a picture of this in their hearts and be horrified because of their obstinate minds.
- 30. Now, dear Virgin, would it then not be time, just once, to show some pride, since the whole world is supposed to extol and praise you? No, she says, for that reason I will not become proud. What causes me to rejoice, however, is that I am a lowly, despised maiden, and yet God, my Lord, has not despised me but looked on me in grace. . . . But God, who created heaven and earth, turned his eyes graciously toward me, singling me out for this great work.
- 32. . . . also, Mary . . . acknowledges, God has done much good not only to me but also to others. [Thus] she so precisely ties together God's mercy and the fear of God, that where a person fears God, he will be merciful; on the other hand, where one does not fear God, there no mercy or grace will be shown but punishment and wrath.

Collect

Almighty God, who didst show favor to the Blessed Virgin Mary, granting unto her to be the mother of thine only-begotten Son, we beseech Thee that Thou wouldst grant humility and faithfulness unto Thy Church to glorify Thee in the fulfillment of our labors that we who have been saved by grace through faith in Thy Son, might remain steadfast unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who livest and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.



- 9 Kings' daughters are among Your honor-<u>a-ble</u> wo-<u>men</u>; At Your right hand stands the queen in gold from O-phir.
- 10 Listen, O daughter, Consider <u>and in</u>-cline your <u>ear</u>; Forget your own people also, and your father's house;
- 11 So the King will greatly de-<u>sire your</u> beau-<u>ty</u>; Because He is <u>your Lord</u>, worship <u>Him</u>.
- 12 And the daughter of Tyre will <u>come with</u> a <u>gift</u>; The rich among the people will <u>seek your</u> fa-<u>vor</u>.
- 13 The royal daughter is all glorious with-<u>in</u> the pal-<u>ace</u>; Her clothing is <u>wo-ven</u> with <u>gold</u>.
- 14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of <u>man-y</u> col-<u>ors</u>; The virgins, her companions who follow her, <u>shall</u> <u>be</u> brought to <u>You</u>.
- 15 With gladness and rejoicing <u>they shall</u> be <u>brought</u>; They shall enter <u>the King's pal-ace</u>.
- 16 Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons,

Whom You shall make princes <u>in all</u> the <u>earth</u>.

17 I will make Your name to be remembered in all <u>gen-er</u>-ations;

Therefore the people shall praise You forev-<u>er</u> <u>and</u> ev-<u>er</u>.

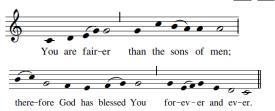
Antiphon

Glory be to the <u>Fa-ther</u> and to the <u>Son</u>,

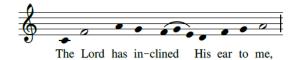
And to the <u>Ho-ly Spir-it</u>.

As it was in the be-gin-ning,

Is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.



Psalm 116







- 1 I love the Lord, because <u>He has</u> heard My <u>voice</u> and my <u>sup-pli</u>-ca-<u>tions</u>.
- 2 Because He has in-<u>clined His</u> ear to <u>me</u>,

Therefore I will call upon Him as <u>long as</u> I <u>live</u>.

3 The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of She-ol laid hold of me;

I found trou-ble and sor-row.

- 4 Then I called upon the <u>name of the Lord</u>:
 - "O Lord, I implore You, de-<u>liv-er</u> my <u>soul!"</u>
- 5 Gracious is the <u>Lord</u>, <u>and</u> right-<u>eous</u>;

Yes, our <u>God</u> is merci-<u>ful</u>.

6 The Lord pre-<u>serves</u> the sim-<u>ple</u>;

I was brought low, and He saved me.

7 Return to your <u>rest</u>, O my <u>soul</u>,

For the Lord has dealt <u>boun-ti-fully</u> with <u>you</u>.

8 For You have delivered my soul from death,

My eyes from tears, And my feet from fall-ing.

9 I will walk be-fore the Lord

In the land of the liv-ing.



10 I believed, therefore I spoke, "I am great-<u>ly af</u>-flict-<u>ed</u>." 11 I said in my haste, "All men are li-ars."

12 What shall I ren-der to the Lord

For all His ben-<u>e</u>-<u>fits</u> toward <u>me</u>?

13 I will take up the cup of sal-va-tion,

And call upon the <u>name of</u> the <u>Lord</u>.

14 I will pay my vows to the Lord

Now in the presence of <u>all His peo-ple</u>.

15 Precious in the <u>sight</u> of the <u>Lord</u>

Is the <u>death</u> of His <u>saints</u>.

16 O Lord, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidserv-ant;

You have loosed my bonds.

17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks-giv-ing, And will call upon the name of the Lord.

18 I will pay my vows to the Lord

Now in the presence of <u>all His</u> peo-<u>ple</u>,

19 In the courts of the Lord's house,

In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Glory be to the <u>Fa-ther</u> and to the <u>Son</u>,

And to the <u>Ho-ly</u> Spir-<u>it</u>.

As it was in the be-gin-ning,

Is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.





The Lord has in-clined His ear to me,



Psalm 45



You are fair-er than the sons of men;





1 My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition con-cern-ing the King;

My tongue is the pen of a <u>read-y</u> writ-<u>er</u>.

2 You are fairer <u>than the</u> sons of <u>men</u>; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You for-ev-er.

3 Gird Your sword upon Your <u>thigh</u>, O Mighty One, With Your glory <u>and Your</u> majes-<u>ty</u>.

4 And in Your majesty ride prosperously

because of truth, humili-ty, and righteous-ness;

And Your right hand shall <u>teach</u> You awesome <u>things</u>.

5 Your arrows are sharp in the heart of <u>the King's</u> ene-<u>mies</u>; The peo-<u>ples fall</u> under <u>You</u>.

6 Your throne, O God, is forev-er and ev-er;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your king-dom.

7 You love righteousness <u>and hate</u> wicked-<u>ness</u>; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your com-pan-ions.

8 All Your garments are scented with myrrh and al-<u>oes and cassi-a</u>, Out of the ivory palaces, by which <u>they have</u> made You <u>glad</u>.