



4th Sunday
of Advent



**This Promise
to Our Ancestors**
Luke 1:46-55

Introduction

- 4th Sunday of Advent - preparation for Christmas Day
- Mary as a neglected exemplar (or model) of faith
- Frequent Protestant “allergy” due to veneration of Mary by RCC
- Luke 1:35-38, 42-45
- Parallels: the Bride of Christ, receiving the Holy Spirit, bearing fruit to God
- Our text is an inspired prophecy-song, in a female voice, the new Eve (life-giver)
- God embodied in her body

The Magnificat

Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,

and from now on all generations

will call me blessed.

*For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.*

*He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.*

*His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.*

*He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.*

*He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.*

*For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever.”*

- Mary's example to us of:
 - ***Receptivity*** to the Word of the Lord
 - ***Humility*** as a Servant of the Lord
 - ***Trust*** in the Promise of the Lord
 - ***Joy*** in the Coming of the Lord
- Meanwhile...

Annunciation *John Donne*

Salvation to all that will is nigh;

That All, which always is all everywhere,

Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must bear,

Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but die,

Lo! faithful Virgin, yields Himself to lie

In prison, in thy womb; and though He there

Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He'll wear,

Taken from thence, flesh, which death's force may try.

Ere by the spheres time was created thou
Wast in His mind, who is thy Son, and Brother;
Whom thou conceivest, conceived; yea, thou art now
Thy Maker's maker, and thy Father's mother,
Thou hast light in dark, and shutt'st in little room
Immensity, cloister'd in thy dear womb.

Prayer

Dear Lord, like Mary our exemplar,

***we believe this day that there will be fulfillment
of all that You have spoken,***

O Lord, we say to You again:

we are Your servants,

***may everything You have said about us
and about Your Son come true.***

Amen