

# **“Prophetic Praise and Blessed Assurance”**

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Guest Minister

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From the Pulpit

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## “Prophetic Praise and Blessed Assurance”

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*Let us pray: Lord be magnified by our souls, be praised, help us to make room for you Holy one. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

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This advent season we have spent the past several weeks in a time of preparation. Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. Waiting, Patience, repentance.

With talk of the birth of Christ, we ready ourselves much like we would in anticipation of a human child. How many of us know what it's like to have a child come into our lives? Some of us here may be parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, best friends and God parents.

How much does having a new child change? EVERYTHING. Especially when it is your own.

Guess what? Christ is our own. He is yours and he is mine. We are his. He is Lord. He is. We prepare now in this season with Jesus in mind. Who he is. What he does for us now and forever.

The scripture today shows us the story of two pregnant cousins. Mary and Elizabeth.

Many of you who have been pregnant yourselves may resonate with this moment. In our own state of vulnerability and pregnancy we go towards family/those we trust, for insight, for safety, for understanding, for help.

This tender moment is rich with the Holy Spirit. From the moment that Mary calls out her greeting. Elizabeth responds first after being filled with the

Holy Spirit and blessing Mary. Then Mary speaks her hymn of praise, known as “the Magnificat”. Both women are prophesying, both are praising God.

The gift of prophecy is one that I have been familiarizing myself with in these past months since having attended a prophetic conference in California in August. What is the gift of prophecy?

As displayed here in the scripture, the gift of prophecy is a gift of the Holy Spirit, it is something that you do, and it is for edification, exhortation, and comfort. Edification means “to build up”, exhortation means “to draw near”, and comfort is “to cheer up”.

So, both Elizabeth and Mary’s words captured in Scripture are meant to build us up as the people of God, they are meant to draw us closer to Christ, and to give us good comfort and cheer, to give us joy forevermore.

A prophetic word, from the holy spirit, can contain one or all of the following: Identity, who God says they are, Gifts and skills — what is carried in your tool belt, Foretelling — insights into the future, Actionable intel —actions one can take or co-labor with God, Scriptural intelligence — promises, hope or strategies anchored in the Word of God.

Prophecy brings people into a revelation of the glory that God has assigned to them. Elizabeth says:

*“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 1:43  
And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?  
1:44 For as soon as I heard your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for  
joy.”*

In this moment the Holy Spirit fills Elizabeth and she recognizes who Mary is carrying and the implications of his existence. But not only Elizabeth recognizes Jesus, but her own child, in womb recognizes him.

Babies in utero kicking when they hear the voice of their father, their siblings, their mother.

Elizabeth gets knowledge from the Holy Spirit about Mary, her new identity in relation to Christ. Mary is blessed among women, she is Mother to Jesus, she is one who trusted the Holy Spirit with her body. Romans 12:1 says *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship.”*

And Elizabeth identifies the Christ child, who she immediately calls “her Lord.”

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!*

*1:45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”*

Mary is blessed not only for her status as the mother of the Lord, but also for her trust in God’s promise.

*Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.*

Mary’s response to Elizabeth is famous. It has been given its own name after the first sentence of her proclamation, in Latin “Magnificat anima mea Dominum”. The Magnificat. It is a prophetic utterance, a prayer, canticle, a hymn of praise.

*1:46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
1:47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
1:48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
1:49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;*

Here, Mary praises God for what he has done and then she prophesies, these prophecies include concrete portions of Jesus’ ministry to come.

*1:52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;*

## Mark 10 The Little Children and Jesus

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Jesus reminds us that those we disparage have a place at the table. That the least of these will be first. That we ourselves must be like a child.

1:53 he has filled the hungry with good things

## Matthew 14

18 “Bring them here to me,” he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over and sent the rich away empty. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus not only provides for our physical bodies, but he also fills us when we come to him in spiritual hunger.

Matthew 19: Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Jesus reminds us that relying on anything other than God, will gain us nothing. Riches, wealth, abundance can be like a crutch for us, an idol. Our help comes from the Lord.

*Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.*

All foretold from the mouth of Jesus' mother.

“Blessed assurance” is a term that refers to a deep, confident sense of peace and security in God’s promises, particularly in the context of salvation. The hymn titled “Blessed Assurance” by Fanny Crosby, expresses the believer’s certainty in God’s love, faithfulness, and the hope of eternal life.

In the context of the scripture today, Blessed assurance is the confidence Elizabeth has in God’s plan, recognizing Mary’s role in the fulfillment of God’s promises. Blessed assurance is Mary’s trust and praise for the faithfulness that God has to His covenant.

These two women have had an encounter with the Lord our God. Christ is recognizable even in the womb. Two women have prophesied words that have reached a multitude of generations and will continue forever. They remind us that Christ is in the center of it all. We’ve been given everything with his life.

This advent season we wait, we prepare, we cry out with joy, because the God who loves us beyond loving anything has given us the gift of His son.

Let us magnify the Lord.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Amen.

