

## Blessed in Believing

Luke 1:39-45 Sunday AM, June 23, 2024

**Prelude – Scripture: Luke 1:34-45** (NASB95) 34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. 36 “And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. 39 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 “And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? 44 “For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. 45 “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”

And so we continue Luke’s defense of the gospel to Theophilus, a defense that includes men and women who feared God—faithfully serving/ obeying. They had real needs, real tears, real sins, but they continued from where they were. And providentially, THESE were chosen to receive a visit from Gabriel. First Zacharias, and last week, Mary. Both were startled—that’s normal. Both had questions—and though there were differences in their faith and we are missing pieces, both showed evidence of continuing to live in the fear of the Lord. His name is John, responded the one who struggled in faith, but spoke according to the word of the Lord as his tongue was loosened to the glory of God. Mary’s response to the weighty words spoken to her? “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” What a response! And why shouldn’t they both respond with reverence and obedience? They were responding to a great God—the all-powerful One. In the words of Gabriel, 37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.” Praise our great God!

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Creator God, Our Sovereign Lord

So what do you do when you’ve heard something so great from the throne room of heaven? For Mary, it was easy. Gabriel told her of another given an impossible promise, and Mary runs to her to speak of the Lord’s doings. Have you contemplated and seen the hand of the Lord this week? Have you discussed it or proclaimed it to another? Contemplate what it is to profess faith in Christ with the responsibility of living to magnify the name of the Lord.

### \*Hymn #450: Lord, Speak to Me

### \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn **Choir: No More Night**

**Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1–16** (NASB95) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood; May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. 10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look. 13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

### Offering: \*Doxology:

Listen to the joy that comes from believing and acting in light of God’s Words, Mary arrives and tells her what the Lord was doing and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 “And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? 44 “For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. 45 “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” Joy is not merely for them, but for you who believe and act on His words.

### \*Hymn #350: ‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

**You may be seated.** Yes, but I don’t have a baby in my womb that an angel told me about. It doesn’t work like this for me. Yes, but you do have promise of fellowship with God through faith in the work of Christ. You have promise of eternal with God for those who believe. Don’t you hear the same joy in Peter as in our passage today? 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, Whose words DO you believe? 28 of us leave tomorrow and we have been learning about the word existentialism—do you know what it means? Ask some of them. What are the shortcomings of existentialism? Let’s just say for starters that those who would be reconciled to their Creator—who would receive mercy from God instead of wrath, will trust God’s words for a reality that goes beyond your experiences. Trusting His Words as more reliable than your own reality leads to believing in Him though you do not see Him, to rejoicing with joy inexpressible and full of glory because you trust that His words lead to the salvation of your soul. Sons of Adam, Daughters of Eve, set your hope on Jesus.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): I Set My Hope on Jesus

**Message: “Blessed in Believing” Luke 1:39-45 \*Hymn #408: Have Faith in God \*Prayer**