**Mary Visits Elizabeth**

We gather together tonight to continue through Luke chapter 1. This evening we treasure the account of Mary's visit to Elizabeth and Mary's Song of praise.

Psalm 98: "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations."

---Sing a new song is exactly what Elizabeth and Mary did. When God made known to them His salvation, Elizabeth, **exclaimed with a loud cry** and Mary's **soul magnified the Lord**.

Elizabeth and Mary are portents to us of Christian faithfulness. When they gathered together they were both humbled and in awe of the Lord's marvelous work.

Mary's visitation to Elizabeth is but a taste of the Lord's wonderful visitation to you. Their joyous exclamation and new song is now yours. Because Jesus has visited His people and worked salvation, you, with Elizabeth and Mary, exult and sing.

Elizabeth says of Mary, **"Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ---**And Jesus says to you, **"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."**

Blessed are all who believe, for the Lord has worked salvation. He keeps His Word, He never breaks His promises, every word will be fulfilled.

--- Thus, Mary praised the Lord, **"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."** With her, your soul magnifies the Lord, your spirit rejoices in God your Savior.

In her old age, God gave Elizabeth a son, John the Baptist, who would go before the Lord to prepare His way. John proclaimed repentance.

To the young maiden, God gave Mary the Son of God*.* Conceiving the Son of God, she had divine assurance through the word of the Angel. She had confidence, thus she could not contain the joy within. The joy of salvation overflowed, she traveled immediately to go and share it with her cousin. Jesus gave her faith.

Elizabeth and Mary were there, gathered together around Jesus.

And Jesus visits us here, not in Mary's womb, but in His Word. And God has given you repentance, to mourn your sin and exult in the One who takes it away. God has given you divine assurance through the proclamation of the same word that Mary heard. ---You have faith, your joy cannot be contained within. The joy of salvation overflows, thus you traveled here to share it with your Christian brethren. ---This is why we gather together, to hear the promises of God and rejoice in His marvelous work, to build each other up in the confidence of faith and to rejoice in the undeserved mercy which we have received.

We have joy in all the great things that God does: He looks on the humble, He has mercy on those who fear Him, He has shown strength with His arm, He scatters the proud in the imagination of their thoughts, He brings down the mighty, He exults the lowly, He fills the hungry, He sends the rich away empty, He helps His people, He remembers His mercy, He has spoken and He has kept His word. God has worked salvation.

What a wonderful new song this is: it is not the way of the world, where the proud and mighty rule with terror and oppress the humble and poor. ---Jesus visits us, to gladden our hearts; from the inner most depths of our being, soul and spirit we have confidence through Him.

The new kingdom of God is otherworldly, it is marvelous. God's mercy is for all who fear Him and trust in His unfailing love. ---This is as true for you as it has been for every Christian throughout History, from Elizabeth and Mary who gathered together with John and Jesus in utero, even up until today. The good news is for all peoples, babies in the womb like John, elderly women like Elizabeth, young maidens like Mary, and for you.

The great Work of God is for all peoples, Jesus our Savior died and rose, for all nations. God is not a respecter of persons. Age, status, or ability - Jesus visits all. And it is marvelous what He has done, He takes away our guilt and gives us joy. Sin no longer oppresses us. ---A maid was found with child, yet remained a virgin mild. In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne. Then stepped forth the Lord of all from His pure and kingly hall; God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began. God the Father was His source, back to God He ran His course. Into hell His road went down, back then to His throne and crown. The Father's Son; has in flesh, the vict'ry won. His mighty pow'r now makes whole, all our ills of flesh and soul. ---The LORD has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. Blessed are those who have believed.

And so we exult and sing, we gather together in Christian fellowship around Jesus. Amen

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen