

December 22

Priest: My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel
in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever. (Lk 1:46-55)

Reflection

Lector: In the Magnificat, Mary draws on the Old Testament prophecies and exults in praise of God. Mary's Son is destined to fulfill God's promises to his people. Mary rejoices in the deliverance of God's people and in his care for the poor and destitute of society. Her song bears another hymn that runs like a golden thread through the readings and antiphons. The expected Messiah will be the Lord of the Gentiles as well as of the Jews. We pray in today's antiphon, "Come, king of all nations." Christ is the peacemaker, the bond of unity among all peoples.

Antiphon

Priest: O king of all nations, the one for whom they have been yearning, the cornerstone who unites all of them in perfect union, come now, and rescue poor humanity, which from dust you have fashioned. (cf. Jer 10:7; Hg 2:8; Is 28:16, Gen 2:7, Eph 2:14)

Magnificat

All: My soul magnifies the Lord,
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Intercessions

Priest: Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace! In your great love for us you were born of the Virgin Mary;

All: may her prayers for us be our joy and consolation at all times.

Priest: Mary has given birth to the Savior, splendor of the rising sun;

All: bring those who have died into your light through the intercession of Mary your Mother.

Priest: The angels proclaim a mystery today while shepherds hurry to a cave. Mary has given birth to a child in a cold, bare stable;

All: we are ready to warm you, holy child, with our hearts. Let us honor you by our lives and deeds, singing glory to God in the highest and peace to all people of goodwill.

Priest: Christ, Emmanuel, Mary cared for you in joy and Joseph provided for all the needs of his family;

All: help families to love one another and bond them together in love.

Priest: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb;

All: truly blessed is she who bore the Son of God, and blessed too are those who hear the word of God - and keep it.

Closing Prayer

Priest: Christ goes before us. He is the Lamb without sin who will open to us the gates of heaven. He is the high priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech. He is the king of justice and his reign is eternal.

You who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end.

All: Amen.

The final Marian hymn on page 8.