

The mother of the prophet, who will give birth to the greatest man of a human father, this pregnant mother is visited by the mother of God. In coming together of these 2 pregnant women, we see the coming together of the old and the new. For Elizabeth, in her old age, formerly barren, priestly husband and prophetic son -an icon of the old, aging Israel; whereas Mary, in her youth, maternal virginity, divine son, an icon of the new, everlasting Israel of God. As once barren Abraham's wife Sarah was the alpha mother in Israel so once barren Zechariah's wife Elizabeth is the omega. She will give birth to last of OT prophets. The Old is coming to an end; the curtain about to come down before the holy of holies, the new covenant is breaking forth.

The mighty one has done great things for Mary, Elizabeth. Mary's song also your song, **the mighty one has great things for me and holy is his name**. It's written, **Blessed is Mary who has believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her**. A fulfillment of what? What does she believe, what had been spoken to her? A great thing, a pregnancy, virgin birth taking place. She's going to be a mother.

And even greater, what was spoken, she believes the Lord will fulfill; her baby will be a king, and His kingdom will have no end.

And even greater, she believes in the fulfillment that in her womb is the Christ, with this child she's the mother of God. The Christ promised to Adam and Eve, all God's people awaited for 1000s of yrs -was finally coming.

And yet even greater, the fulfillment she believes -this child will save her and all God's people. But she couldn't have imagined how. What to be fulfilled, journeys to a cross. Mary speaks **what the Lord will fulfill**. And the last words she will hear at the cross, **it is fulfilled, finished**. From the manger to the foot of the cross, the blessed Mary can ponder in her heart what she first believed, what was said to her, all the promises the Lord will fulfill.

The Holy Spirit fills Elizabeth, she cries out: **Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?** Elizabeth recognized something you and I can learn. Recognized when Mary came to visit her, this was a great blessing from God which she did not deserve. For that matter neither did Mary. It's very easy during Christmastime to develop a sense of entitlement about God. Who's been naughty or nice? Deep down, we all harbor secret thoughts we've been pretty good, deserving, make God's nice list. You think you are above average, better, kinder, nicer, smell better, sin less than what you truly are. That "God should appreciate me, give me more, for what I do. I deserve nice presents." Shame on us.

The Lord has done great things for you, but you have done great things against Him, He has shown you strength in His arm, you raise up your arms against others in self-interest. He fills the hungry with good things and you hunger for worldly things to fill you. He only exalts the humble, those who confess their sins

Elizabeth teaches you and I what it means to be a Christian. Elizabeth's son in her womb teaches when you're in the presence of God in the flesh, that's something worth getting excited about. not something you deserve. But for us sinners, it is a very, very good thing. How can you approach this altar without your repentant heart leaping -like John in His very presence?

Mary wasn't holy, she's blessed not for what she does, but what the Lord did in her, for her. You too, blessed like Mary, but only for what God has done in you, for you. His very presence will bring joy in a way that nothing else ever could. What love and mercy He has shown to sinners.

What Advent, Christmas all about. Jesus coming -into your life to forgive your sins. Not for a moment or season; He comes to you for a lifetime, for all eternity. We come into His presence here in the DS, to be with Him just as He was with Mary. What fulfillment is yours.

What do you hope to fulfill this Christmas? What will make a good Christmas? Are you filled with hope of the coming Savior? Or weighed down with many things; your ideas of self-fulfillment for Christmas?

Jesus' coming in the flesh forces you and I to examine our lives. With eternity before our very eyes, have the measure of whether or not this is a good Christmas - pondering with Mary what great things He has done to you, that your spirit rejoices in God your savior.

You have a great Christmas celebration just a day away. It will be great, when you are focused upon the Christ, it can't be any other way. Yes, I know, there's problems, heartaches over absent family, or too many opinions in the kitchen, family under a lot of stress and sinful tendencies emerge, but this Christmas will be great, because of what the Lord has done for you and those around you and those who have gone before you.

He came to fulfill great things for you, to have compassion, to pour out His blood for you. Join with angels and all the company of heaven, declaring with Mary, what the Lord has fulfilled. **The mighty one has great things for Klein Martin and holy is his name** the Lord placed, baptized upon him. Realize the mighty things the Lord continues in you, you who are loved no less than He loves Mary, Elizabeth, and John. Let your soul **magnify the Lord and your spirit rejoice in God your Savior. For the Mighty One has done great things for you; holy is His name** that Little Martin and you bear. And his mercy is for Klein and for you who fear him from generation to generation.