

HOPE THAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

A Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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The Gospel of St Luke 1:46-55:

"My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on, all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. . . "

We celebrate the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary assumed into heaven. The solemnity is God's way of saying "in My presence you will live in great joy, in great hope." Hence, in Mary, we see what it means to love and hope and live in God.



1. The Power of the Greeting

Which is most important - greeting, teaching or story? The answer is the greeting; without it, the teaching and story remain flat, with no meaning. To greet a person is to let a person feel important, and to make the heart feel alive. Upon Mary's greeting, St. Elizabeth said, "the infant leapt for joy when I heard your greeting." Every time we greet the Lord, we are saying, "Lord You are the most important to me."

2. **The solemnity of the Assumption of Mary is about God's greeting to Mary:** "Hail, full of grace..." The greeting she received is the greeting she also gave to St. Elizabeth. The assumption reminds us of who we truly are. God's greeting is God's recognition of our importance to the Lord. That is why He even gave His life for us. When Mary heard the greeting, she was able to discern the kind of life she would have, i.e. her life for the Lord that even death has no power.

3. **Mary assumed to heaven is a dogma.** It is a church teaching and statement that is true. The Assumption was declared a dogma in an apostolic manifestation by Pope Pius 12 in 1950 after World War II; the world was starting over again. People felt hopeless with no purpose in life. Hence, the church response, the dogma of the Virgin Mary's Assumption, was God's statement of hope; something beautiful will

happen to us. God's greeting to us is a life filled with purpose and hope. Thus, a person close to God does not lose hope but sees the beauty of life. Jesus invites us to read the Bible daily, slowly, and ably discern the message of God who has promised a fulfilled life.

- 4. **The best is yet to come. Never lose hope.** The Lord never stops greeting us; He does not stop celebrating our importance to Him. He loves us this much - with arms stretched and dying on the Cross. The call for us is to be like Mary - to open our heart to the Lord and celebrate the reality of how important we are to God. We should never lose hope, for Jesus promises "I will be with you forever." Hope in the Lord is the hope that does not disappoint.
- 5. **Heaven is our destiny.** If Jesus is in our heart, we will not be afraid to die and to live. Like Mary, let us hold on to heaven. Then, we should start to practice life in heaven: there is no anger, no hostility, no gossip, no greed, and no false accusations. Rather, the culture in heaven is all about giving, thanksgiving, offerings, peace, and hope. If we start practicing these now, then when we get there, we will be surprised "there is no difference between heaven and earth." This makes life on earth fascinating. Whether there is sunshine or rain, we can dance. For a person living in God, whether in light or in darkness, there is joy and hope. Only in the moment of darkness can we see the beauty of the stars.
- 6. **Where is heaven?** Heaven is more than a place. Heaven is a person, and the name of heaven is Jesus Christ. Wherever Jesus is, there is heaven. When we are in the community, we feel heaven with every smile, greeting, or touch. Even when there are burdens in our lives, we can experience complete joy because Jesus who is our heaven, is always in our life. With Mary's openness to God, even with sorrows in her heart, she was able to celebrate a life filled with love and hope.

CONCLUSION: What was fulfilled to Mary, will also be fulfilled to all of us. Like Mary, let us hold on to our destiny in heaven, and we will experience never-ending joy.

REFLECTION: How does the Lord convey your importance to Him? How can you practice heaven while here on earth?

SCRIBES Ministry

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