

Sermon

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord'



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Tonight we celebrate the feast of Mary, the mother of our Lord. A day in which we celebrate with joy and thanksgiving the good news of the Kingdom of God, now come in Jesus Christ.

At Christ's return, the Kingdom of God will come upon the whole world, upon the whole human race.

And already now, the Kingdom of God is there in every human heart, that accepts the message about Christ.

Rendering null and void every final claim of the political order of this world, over the life of the individual citizen.

It is no accident that the gospels name the political order of the day, at the birth of Christ – the reign of the Emperor Augustus, while Quirinius was governor of Judah. To the contrary, the coming of the kingdom of God in Christ, has made profoundly relative the power of that political order. The ultimate has come, in the midst of the provisional. Both the church and the political order exist in positive relation to the kingdom of God. But only in the church is the kingdom of God already now present, is their salvation for human beings. Is the future destiny, the present dignity, and the true identity, of human beings, present in this world. In the church, as the present sign, as the spiritual symbol, of the future kingdom of God.

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

From the very earliest times in Israel, God's saving kingdom—of freedom and peace, of righteousness and abundant life—was understood to be a kingdom that would come not just to Israel but to all people.

Down, out of heaven from God, like a bride adorned for her husband.

In the Christ child, born of Mary, laid in a manger, and wrapped in swaddling bands.