

Mary Mother of God SML 2021
LK 2:16-21

That night, 2020 years ago, there went over the stillness of the evening breeze, out over those white chalky hills of Bethlehem, a cry, a gentle cry, the cry of a newborn baby.

- ✓ Earth did not hear the cry, for the earth slept;
- ✓ men did not hear the cry, for they did not know that a child could be greater than a man;
- ✓ the sea did not hear the cry, for the sea was filled with its own voice;
- ✓ kings did not hear the cry for they did not know that a king could be born in a stable;
- ✓ empires did not hear the cry, for empires did not know that an infant could hold the reins that steer suns and worlds in their courses.

But philosophers and shepherds heard the cry, for only the very learned and the very simple (but never the man with one book) know that the heart of God can cry out in the cry of a child. Three came with gifts, the rest came without gifts, and yet all came and adored,

- ✓ so great was the majesty seated on the forehead of the Child which lay before them,
- ✓ so great was the dignity of the Baby,

- ✓ so powerful was the light of His Eyes that shone like the sun,

that they could not help but cry out, “Emmanuel, God with us!”

This was their united conclusion: Mary, the Mother of God, Joseph, the very learned and the very simple, as they kept all these things, reflecting on them in their hearts.

As Mother of God, Mary’s pondering was not a one-time occurrence for her.

- ✓ At the Annunciation, Mary pondered the greeting of the Angel Gabriel (LK 1:29)
- ✓ And after finding the Boy Jesus in the Temple, Mary again pondered all these things in her heart. (LK 2:51)

As Mother of God, Mary’s pondering was an interior conversation to understand the events unfolding before her concerning Her Son. But for those of us with 2020 years of hindsight stashed in our books, devotionals and spiritual back pockets, on what do we reflect, on what do we ponder?

We ponder that God revealed Himself to men yet again! This time He shone through the prism of the Incarnation and brought divine life to human life.

- ✓ He Who is born without a mother in heaven is born without a father on earth.
- ✓ He Who made His Mother is born of His Mother.

✓ He Who made all flesh is born of flesh.

As Robert Southwell penned in his poem, "The Nativity of Christ," "the bird that built the nest is hatched therein."

We ponder:

- ✓ The Maker of the sun, under the sun
- ✓ The Molder of earth; on the earth
- ✓ ineffably wise, a little infant
- ✓ filling the world, lying in a manger
- ✓ ruling the stars, in His Mother's arms
- ✓ God becomes man
- ✓ Creator, a creature
- ✓ Rich becomes poor
- ✓ Divinity, incarnate
- ✓ Majesty, subjugated
- ✓ Liberty, captive
- ✓ Eternity, time
- ✓ Master, a servant
- ✓ Judge, judged
- ✓ Justice, condemned
- ✓ King, crowned with thorns
- ✓ Salvation, wounded
- ✓ Life, death

✓ Dead, risen!

We ponder that Christ does not fit, as the other world teachers do, into the established category of a good man. Good men do not lie. But if Christ was not all that He said He was, namely, the Son of the living God, the Word of God in the flesh, then He was not “just a good man;” He was a liar and the greatest deceiver who ever lived. If He was not who He said He was, the Christ, the Son of God, and only a man, then He was not even a “good” man.

We ponder that the choice before us: either He spoke culpable insincerity or He spoke literal truth. It is easier to believe that God has achieved His work of wonder and mercy in His Divine Son on earth than to darken the brightest impact in human history and lapse into despair, that impact which divided human history into two periods: one before His coming, the other after it. We must either lament that He was mad or adore Him. And after pondering, we can say with Chesterton, “Expect the grass to wither and the birds to drop dead out of the sky, when a strolling carpenter’s apprentice says very calmly and almost carefully, like one looking over his shoulder, “Before Abraham was, I AM.” After pondering, we can say with the Roman soldier who, having his own gods and was

hardened by both war and death, came to the answer during the Crucifixion, perhaps even after a moment of pondering, when both his reason and his conscience affirmed the truth, “Truly this man is the Son of God.” And on today’s feast, we ponder that Mary is His Mother, the Mother of God.