



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

August 15, 2021

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass during the Day

Lectionary: 622

Gospel Lk 1:39-56

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Spiritual Reflection: Today we celebrate that upon Mary's last moment on earth (the Church does not say whether she died or was just taken up to heaven) she was crowned queen of heaven and reunited with her earthly body. She is a sign to us of what is meant to happen at the end of the world.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Today's Gospel is Mary's song of praise called "The Magnificat". Do you have a favorite song of praise for God?
2. Do you praise God in good times?
3. Do you praise God in bad times?
4. What should you praise God for?
5. Are you willing to praise God with others? In front of others?