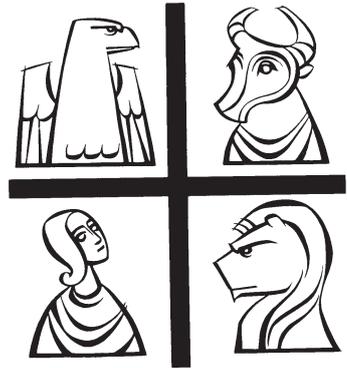


Reading Luke in Lent

Gospel of Luke 1: 26–38



Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,
²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David.
And the virgin's name was Mary.
²⁸ And he came to her and said,
'Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!'
²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying,
and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.
³⁰ And the angel said to her,
'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.
³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall call his name Jesus.
³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,
³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel,
'How will this be, since I am a virgin?'
³⁵ And the angel answered her,
'The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.
³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son,
and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.
³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.'
³⁸ And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.'
And the angel departed from her.

Reflection

The Annunciation is contrasted with the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist to show that Jesus will be the greater. In the first there is the miracle of the barren Elizabeth conceiving whereas here it is Mary the virgin. John will be great before the Lord and will prepare a people for the Lord. Jesus will be the Son of the Most High and his kingdom will never end.

- Mary is a young woman who is not found among the rich and the powerful. The antithesis of where the contemporary society might have expected God to be changing human history.
 - What surprising places do you see God at work today?
 - To what new life is God inviting you to say Yes?

Prayer

Here in our midst, O God of mystery,
you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages.
For you we wait; for you we listen.

Upon hearing you voice
may we, like Mary, embrace your will
and become a dwelling fit for your Word.

Grant this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

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