LORD OF :LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH GARNER, NC 12/23/18

Happy Mother’s Day

In the name…

Let us pray…

When the people that were at the O Holy Night event saw Mary greet Elizabether, her cousin, it was truly a time when both of them were ecstatic. Mary and Elizabeth beamed and th4e baby leaped in Elizabeth’s womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit, it was certainly a Happy Mothers. It was a double baby shower with two mothers and they were rejoicing in their good fortune in which God had chosen them and they demonstrate that in their words. Elizabeth understands the enormity of the situation. That Mary is going to be the mother of God’s Son and she does not even mention her own good fortune.

First, Elizabeth takes the lead, and declares about Mary Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Clearly Elizabeth and the babies were communicating with one another leaping and saying boy it will sure be great to know you as a cuz. Cuz. . We will be able to get into a lot of trouble together. And they did, which caused John to be beheaded and Jesus crucified.

And Elizabeth continues by showing her humbleness, “Why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me.”

Mary came to her we surmise for several reasons. She wanted close relative, her

cousin to share this with her and celebrate with her. She came to her because

Elizabeth could understand and support her. And perhaps Mary’s visit to

Elizabeth will help us to be open to our own visitation. In the gospel of Luke Mary

is presented as the supreme prophetic witness to the unwavering consistency of

God’s regard for the ones who are forgotten, discounted, and those who fall

through the cracks. Let us hear her words described as the Magnificat as if Mary

were visiting us. It is a song of wonder, awe, comprehension and celebration of

what is dong in the world then and what He through us His servants could be

doing now. It is a collection of texts that is pastoral, without using any references

to shepherds and sheep. Mary begins by magnifying the Lord and rejoicing in Him

recognizing that He is the Savior. Let us acknowl3edge anew Our Lord and

Savior. She recognizes herself ass God’s lowly servant who will be lifted up (her

own Son will say during His ministry “the last will be first.” Mary recognizes this

lowly servant will has been lifted up and will be called Blessed. Mary should be

called Blessed for nothing else then this remarkable witness of faith she gives.

She goes on to make this humbleness universal. He God has shown strength in His

arm, He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought

down the powerful from their thrones. That is a statement of judgement to the

powerful. (again her Son will soon say the first will be last), she moves quickly to

God will lift up the lowly, (the last will be first). There is a theme here, “the rich sent away empty, the hungry filled with Good Things.

Wow, so how does Mary’s visit to us affect us?

Christmas has a long and complicated history but one we all think is a modern concept is the notion of celebrating the days of Christmas through Epiphany, yup the 12 days of Christmas. It is an ancient tradition, and let us celebrate the birth of Jesus right through Epiphany after all, some of us from the east, Ukrainians, Eastern Orthodox view the day we celebrate Epiphany as Christmas. Just because the radio stations will stop Christmas music Wednesday, continue it, celebrate it. This year I have especially moved by the rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas by Straight No Chaser who bring in other religions, other cultures into their rendition and I will use the song as the basis for tomorrow’s early worship. The later worship, I will use the creed with the 12 days in mind for the message.

During this Christmas season let us think of ourselves as Mary’s servants assisting her as she gives birth and then she considers how and why her newborn child is going to change the world. Instead of cramming all our Hopes and Dreams into one day let us celebrate with Mary and Joseph 12 days instead of one.

In the name…