

WHAT WE FOUND

With 2 Samuel 6 open beside Luke 1, we watched the Visitation replay the Ark of the Covenant's journey beat by beat: the hill country of Judah, a leaping figure before the Lord's presence, the awed question (how is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me), and a three-month stay that blessed the house. Mary carries what the Ark carried, the presence of God, and this is the biblical grammar of the Church's love for her: in this Ark typology, the honor shown to Mary points above all to the One she carried.

We heard the Magnificat as a daughter's variation on Hannah's song, the anthem of the lowly that the Church still sings at Vespers every evening. We learned that first-born (prōtotokos) is a legal title of consecration under Exodus 13:2, not a count of later children. And we stood in the Temple twice: for Simeon's light to the Gentiles and his sword through your own soul also, and for the twelve-year-old's first words about his Father's house, while Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Ambrose of Milan (*Exposition of Luke, Book II*)

Let Mary's soul be in each of you to magnify the Lord, let her spirit be in each of you to rejoice in God: Christ has one Mother in the flesh, but by faith Christ is the fruit of all of us.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Bede the Venerable (*Homilies on the Gospels, Book I*)

Elizabeth blesses Mary above all for her faith: the blessedness of bearing Christ was hers alone, but the blessedness of believing and keeping his word is offered to every disciple.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. John Paul II (*Redemptoris Mater, 12–19*)

Blessed is she who believed is the key to Mary's whole life: a pilgrimage of faith, her yes renewed in the dark at the manger, at Simeon's sword, at the losing and finding, and finally at the cross.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Pray the Magnificat aloud once this week, ideally in the evening; you will be joining the canticle the Church sings at Vespers every evening.
- Read CCC 2676 and notice how much of the Hail Mary is simply Luke 1.

- Keep guarding your sealed guess from Take-Home 1. Still no looking it up.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Luke 1:45 *And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.* (RSV2CE)

Before next session: read Luke 3:1–4:44, the Baptist, the baptism, the genealogy, the desert, and a sermon in Jesus' hometown.

Catechism this week: CCC 495, 499–501, 529, 534, 2619, 2676.