

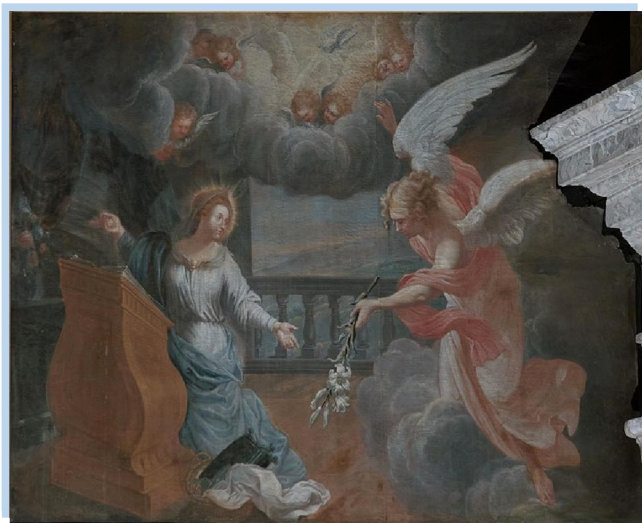
Communal Lectio Divina

Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary

Opening Prayer:

Prayer to Mary for a Listening Heart

Mary, when the Archangel Gabriel surprised you one day, you listened to his words with an attentive heart. You said “yes” to God’s invitation to be the Mother of his Son, and then the Holy Spirit overshadowed you and made you fruitful with divine life. You found joy along with trials in the birth of Jesus, and you treasured everything in your heart.



The Scripture Passage:

[Luke 1:26-38 \(NRSV\)](#)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”^[a] ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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 ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”^[b] ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Lectio (Reader 1) – Read the Gospel passage out loud slowly and reflectively – respecting the pauses the passage presents. After a moment of silence, read the Gospel passage again. (In a group, read the passage aloud).

Silence (approx. 3 mins) – Spend this time reflecting: “What is the Scripture itself saying?”

Meditatio (Reader 2) --- Read the Gospel passage slowly and reflectively again. As we listen to the Word this time, we allow the words we are reading to mind to our heart.

Silence (approx. 3 mins) – “What is the Scripture saying to my heart?”

Prayerfully “echo” the Word by choosing a word or phrase that resonates in your heart at this time.

Oratio (Prayer) – What do you wish to say to the Lord in response to the Word he has spoken to you? Silently offer a simple prayer of response to the Lord (i.e., praise, thanks, petition) related to the Word you are pondering. (approx. 1---2 mins)

Contemplatio (Contemplate) – We rest in the Word we have received, savoring it, waiting with it. (approx. 3---5 mins)

Collatio (Sharing) – In your heart gather the fruits of this Meditation. One of the following questions may help facilitate your reflection:

- What truth is the Lord presenting to my mind? (Truth)
- What is the Word saying to my heart? (Life)
- What is the Word saying to me about my actions, my service, my choices? (Way)

In a group, each person is invited to share briefly (approx. 1-2 min) what the Word is saying to them.

Closing Prayer:

Mary, Mother of Jesus, intercede for us, that we, too, may have listening hearts: hearts that seek to hear the voice of God in every detail of our lives; hearts ready to respond to the needs of those around us. In the events of each day, whether they are ordinary or remarkable, help us to listen to and understand what God is saying or may be asking of us. Pray that we, like you, may treasure God’s word in our hearts and act on it. Amen.