

## Joachim and Anne

The Gospels tell us little about the home of Mary, mother of Jesus. She is thought to have been of Davidic descent and to have been brought up in a devout Jewish family that cherished the hope of Israel for the coming kingdom of God, in remembrance of the promise to Abraham and the forefathers.

In the second century, a devout Christian sought to supply a fuller account of Mary's birth and family, to satisfy the interest and curiosity of believers. An apocryphal gospel, known as the Protevangelium of James or The Nativity of Mary, appeared. It included legendary stories of Mary's parents Joachim and Anne. These stories were built out of Old Testament narratives of the births of Isaac and of Samuel (whose mother's name, Hannah, is

the original form of Anne), and from traditions of the birth of John the Baptist. In these stories, Joachim and Anne—the childless, elderly couple who grieved that they would have no posterity—were rewarded with the birth of a girl whom they dedicated in infancy to the service of God under the tutelage of the temple priests.

In 550 the Emperor Justinian I erected in Constantinople the first church to Saint Anne. The Eastern Churches observe her festival on July 25. Not until the twelfth century did her feast become known in the West. Pope Urban VI fixed her day, in 1378, to follow the feast of Saint James. Joachim has had several dates assigned to his memory; but the new Roman calendar of 1969 joins his festival to that of Anne on this day.

*Leader:* Peace on each one who comes in need,  
*All:* ***Peace on each one who comes in joy.***

*Leader:* Peace on each one who offers prayers,  
*All:* ***Peace on each one who offers song.***

*Leader:* Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Son,  
*All:* ***Peace of the Spirit, the triune one.***

## **Psalm 132:11-19**

*Arise, O Lord, into your resting place.*

11 The Lord has sworn an oath to David, •  
a promise from which he will not shrink:

12 'Of the fruit of your body •  
shall I set upon your throne.

13 'If your children keep my covenant  
and my testimonies that I shall teach them, •  
their children also shall sit upon your throne for evermore.'

14 For the Lord has chosen Zion for himself; •  
he has desired her for his habitation:

*Arise, O Lord, into your resting place.*

15 'This shall be my resting place for ever; •  
here I will dwell, for I have longed for her.

16 'I will abundantly bless her provision; •  
her poor will I satisfy with bread.

17 'I will clothe her priests with salvation, •  
and her faithful ones shall rejoice and sing.

18 'There will I make a horn to spring up for David; •  
I will keep a lantern burning for my anointed.

19 'As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; •  
but on him shall his crown be bright.

*Arise, O Lord, into your resting place.*

## ***Prayer***

*Leader:* O God, for your love for us, warm and brooding, which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes to the wonder and beauty of creation,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, wild and freeing, which has awakened us to the energy of creation: to the sap that flows, the blood that pulses, the heart that sings,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, compassionate and patient, which has carried us through our pain, wept beside us in our sin, and waited with us in our confusion,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* For your love for us, strong and challenging, which has called us to risk for you, asked for the best in us, and shown us how to serve,

*All:* ***We give you thanks.***

*Leader:* O God we come to celebrate that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us, and at the heart of all life. Forgive us when we forget your gift of love made known to us in Jesus, and draw us into your presence.

### **Luke 1:26–33**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

## *Sharing of the day*

### *Prayer*

*Leader:* We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray \_\_\_\_\_ Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer \_\_\_\_\_ Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight \_\_\_\_\_ Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring to God, silently, someone whom we find hard to like or forgive or trust Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

*Leader:* We bring ourselves to God that we might grow in generosity of spirit, clarity of mind, and warmth of affection.  
Holy One, ***We ask your blessing.***

## Hymn 438 Tell out my Soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;

### *Closing responses*

*Leader:* O Trinity of Love, You have been with us at the world's beginning,

*All:* ***Be with us till the world's end.***

*Leader:* You have been with us at our life's shaping,

*All:* ***Be with us at our life's end.***

*Leader:* You have been with us at the sun's rising

*All:* ***Be with us till the day's end. Amen.***

his holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master.  
grant that we may not so much seek***

***to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned,  
it is in dying that we are born again  
to everlasting life. Amen.***

***Leader:*** And now may the God of hope bring you such joy and peace in believing that you overflow with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

***All:*** ***Amen.***



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