

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Part 2: Welcoming | Luke 1:39-56
 Pastor Eric Yee

Welcome the good news of Jesus' coming with great joy.

I. Believe God's Word (vv. 39-45)

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Luke 11:27-28 = As he [Jesus] said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

New City Catechism Q30: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

- Children's Answer: [It's] receiving and *resting* on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Matthew 11:28-30 = Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

What does resting in Jesus look like?

- *Stop work*
- *Come to Jesus*
- *Exchange yokes*

II. Personalize God's mercy (vv. 46-50)

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

III. Identify with God's people (vv. 51-56)

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

Psalm 107:9 = For he satisfies the longing soul, and the **hungry soul** he fills with good things.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Life Application

1. Believe God's Word

- Who can you ask to learn more about Jesus from God's Word?
- When will you regularly stop, come, and exchange with Jesus to rest in your belief in him?

2. Personalize God's mercy

- What are some of the "great things" God is mercifully and personally working in your life right now that you're seeing more as "terrible things" because you're seeing them with the eyes of this world rather than with the eyes of faith in who God is?
- When can you speak to others about how God is mercifully and personally working in your life?

3. Identify with God's people

- How can you be more transparent about your own weaknesses, sins, and need for Christ?
- How can you help fellow believers to experience great joy in welcoming Jesus' coming this Christmas?