

Transformed into Saints Third Week of Advent Final Days of Advent Friday,
December 22, 2017 8:15 AM 1 Sm 1:24-28; **Lk 1:46-56** (What really matters is that we allow our souls to proclaim the greatness of the Lord, which means that we get out of the narrow, little place, which is our egos, and let our souls expand.)

“Mary said: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.”

The early pages of Luke’s Gospel talks about two very important women, obviously Mary the Virgin Mother of Christ, but also Elizabeth. Both are unusual. Elizabeth and her husband, according to St. Luke, were righteous in the sight of the Lord. And when you study the Old Testament you find there were righteous people, not maybe a huge number, but there were righteous people. Later St. Paul says, “All have sinned,” and that idea has been carried a little too far blanketing everything as it were in a sort of ash. **There were saints in the Old Testament, and probably there were saints elsewhere in other places because God is always present and God always has been present.**

The coming of Christ is not the beginning of God being present but, rather, the magnification of the presence of God. **The coming of the Word of God into the flesh, into human nature is meant to augment, magnify, and increase something already present since the time of Adam.** That is actually a statement of Clement of Rome and it was repeated at the Second Vatican Council, and sometimes we can forget that. There are Christian preachers who not only forget it, they obscure it. So we keep in mind there are righteous people everywhere. **There are people who have been doing God’s work everywhere, and usually—usually—they are poor.**

So at the same time there’s also a world full of wickedness and oppression and injustice and disorder. The point, again, is that God isn’t willing just to accept a few righteous people; **God wants to transform his creation, and part of that transformation is the conversion of everyone.** That’s God’s plan. Whether it will be carried out of course isn’t all up to God, because

he has endowed his own creation with their own free will, and **we can accept this great plan of God for new life or we can reject it.** But what's really important is that people hear about it, and that's where the Church comes in. **The Church's role** is not to create it, but to spread it, **to spread the word of this new potential, possibility, opening up in human life that even the wicked can be transformed into saints.** And it goes without saying therefore **even the mediocre can be transformed into saints.** This is God's great action at work, and **it's going to take some time.**

Now on this Advent morning we take a few moments to reflect with Mary on what really matters. And **what really matters is that we allow our souls to proclaim the greatness of the Lord, which means that we get out of the narrow, little place, which is our egos, and let our souls expand.**