

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2022

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow!

Christmas with the Spirituals

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

Scripture: St. Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

~ SERMON NOTES ~

Mary’s Song is more than a pious canticle for Advent. Much more than this, the *Magnificat* praises God for coming into this world to establish justice and set things right. Let’s note **four** key things:

This “Sweet Little Jesus Boy” that Mary sings about shows us that...

1. Life is _____.

“Surely, from now on all generations shall call me blessed.” (v. 48)

2. God is _____.

“He has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.” (v. 48)

3. Things can be _____.

“He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud...He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things...” (vs. 51-53)

4. Faith and Love are stronger than _____ and _____.

“He has helped his servant Israel...according to the promise he made to our ancestors...forever.” (vs. 54-55)
