



Day 4

[20 May]

At Mary's side... on the path of liberation

All of us find ourselves shouting "victory" in our own way, with more or less intensity and conviction. Whether small or great, victories appear in our lives on the path of liberation, if we dare to advance by putting forward one foot, and then another. These are also privileged moments in which we recognize the eruption of God's presence into our lives.

The joy of liberation!

My soul magnifies the Lord!

We encounter these moments of liberation often in the experience of our poverty: sickness, suffering, mourning, disappointment, exhaustion, solitude. In spite of the apparent strength of these tests, we can find within us the presence of God's spirit. She is not only the inspiration, but also the power to advance beyond our limitations, to surmount our spiritual combats.

At a detour in our path, convergence can occur. If we are flexible enough and paying attention, we can let God be God for us. An effusion of the Holy

Spirit then rises up within us. The weaknesses and the poverties of our human condition are thus transformed by the presence of the Spirit. Like Mary, we can thus proclaim our liberation and our joy: my soul magnifies the Lord! A door is thus opened.

Mary is the model of a totally free human being. Free to welcome Christ. Following her example, let's prepare for Pentecost in true liberty, in order to become increasingly apt to recognize and to taste the action of God who accompanies us in our daily lives. Let us seek, therefore, true liberty in Christ in order to proclaim with joy all the days of our lives: my soul magnifies the Lord!

THE WORD AS THE WAY

Lk 1:46-55 (© NRSVCE)

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

WORDS TO PRAY

Holy Spirit, be praised for your salvific presence. You gently transform our lives and make the joy of the Beatitudes break out in us. It's in your eyes that the small, the poor, the voiceless, the humble, the unhappy, and the thirsty, find their true value. O how we adore you!

Holy Spirit, keep us well-disposed and open to God's action within us. You who know our limits, our doubts, our fragility – you who know how our spirits are too often stained with pride, jealousy, vanity and greed – liberate us, so that beside Mary, we can transcend our powerlessness. Sustain us so that we may count on you and, with your grace, journey toward true freedom.