

Mary Prepares



The Virgin Sewing, from the Cappella dell'Annunciata Chapel of the Annunciation 1610, Guido Reni

From the nativity in St Luke's Gospel:

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 2:4-7

In the image today Mary is making swaddling bands. She will wrap her baby son in these. As she sews the angels assist and encourage her.

Take a little time to ponder what might have been in Mary's mind. What did she pray?



From the Psalm set for today:

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, ♦
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them; ♦
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong ♦
and bread to those who hunger.
The Lord looses those that are bound; ♦
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; ♦
the Lord loves the righteous;
The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
he upholds the orphan and widow; ♦
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

Psalm 146:4-9

As you read this Psalm, note the similarities between these verses and those in the Magnificat, the Song of Mary.

With the coming of Mary's son, the world and all its values would be turned upside down.

Note for yourself the things you long to see and experience, and add these to your sense of Advent waiting and watching.

You might use this chant in your prayers, Wait for the Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37k20ZZ9h-A>

