

Mary, Mary, Extraordinary

December 24, 2023 ✕ Wonderful Mercy Church

Jacob Berzelius, the Father of Modern Chemistry



- Invented the system of chemical notation
- Discovered the chemical elements cerium and selenium and was the first to isolate silicon, thorium, titanium, and zirconium.
- Originated the chemical terms catalysis, polymer, isomer, protein, and allotrope.
- Stated in 1810 that living things work by some mysterious “vital force.”

The Washington Post

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Breezy 49/31 • Tomorrow: Sunny 46/29 B8

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 • \$3

China's cyber army targets key U.S. services

Officials say intrusions
have hit ports, utilities
but not led to disruptions

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA
AND JOSEPH MENN

The Chinese military is ramping up its ability to disrupt key American infrastructure, including power and water utilities as well as communications and transportation systems, accord-

STALEMATE UKRAINE'S FAILED COUNTEROFFENSIVE



Plea for Ukraine falls flat on Hill

AID STALLS AS GOP
DIGS IN ON BORDER

Zelensky, in D.C., warns
of dire consequences

BY ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER,
LEIGH ANN CALDWELL,
TYLER PAGER



Luke 2:19

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, READER'S EDITION

But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over.

Luke 2:19

- **suntereo**, “to treasure together,” in the Imperfect Active Tense. Thus, “treasuring these things all along,”
- **sumballo**, “pondering,” the Present Participle, “putting them together.”
- → working out what things mean, discerning how they fit together

There's More to Mary

“The demure Mary of Renaissance paintings does not cohere with the woman who defiantly proclaimed in her Magnificat: *‘He will bring down the rulers from their thrones.’* Mary was a person of courage and faith. A woman who knew the Old Testament scriptures and willingly stepped into a significant role in salvation history.

There's More to Mary

“Ultimately Mary always seems to point away from herself and toward her son—the longed-for Messiah—and in so doing she shows herself to be a witness, an evangelist, a pastor, and a leader.”

Amy Orr-Ewing, *Mary's Voice: Advent Reflections to Contemplate the Coming of Christ* (Nashville: Worthy Publishing), ©2023, pp. 176-177.

Mary & Abraham

- An angel prophesies to Mary about her miraculously conceived son, Jesus
- Abraham met an angel who prophesied that he and Sarah would have Isaac

Mary & Abraham

- In John's gospel, Mary's son carries the wood for his own sacrifice on his back, up the mountain.
- Isaac carries the wood for his own sacrifice up Mount Moriah.
- In fact, *it is the same mountain!*


Mary & Abraham

- Historically, Abraham is regarded as the father of the faith and of the people of God.
- Mary is regarded as the mother of the faith and of the people of God
- Some scholars argue that the gospel authors saw Mary as “the New Abraham.”

The Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55





The Magnificat is “the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary hymn ever sung.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

John 4:24

AMPLIFIED BIBLE

“God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship God must worship God in spirit and in truth (reality).”



Together, love wins.

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