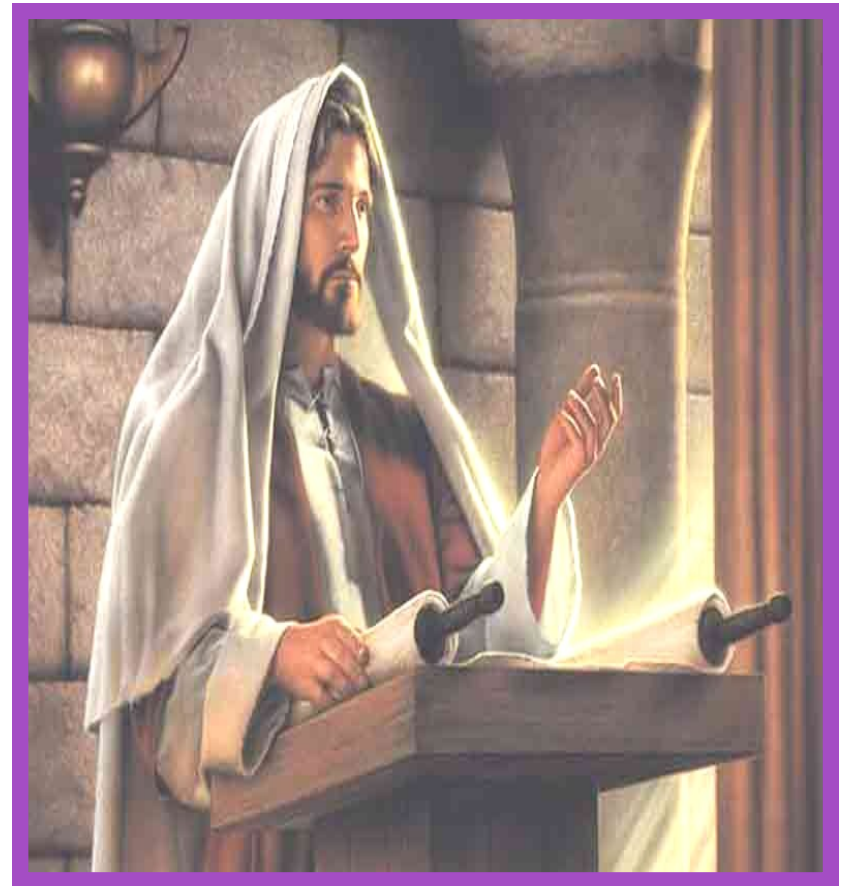


I exult, because I see the Maker of all things taking the form of a man. I leap, because I am thinking of the Redeemer of the world having become incarnate. I am the precursor of His coming, and by these actions I am the first, in a way, to acknowledge Him."



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**SERMON ON
THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
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JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

July 2nd

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version
Volume 2—Pages 1959—1961 (1962 edition)
Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 1:39-47
by: Saint John Chrysostem, Bishop and Doctor

When the Redeemer of our race had come to us, He Hastened to His friend John, while John was still in his mother's womb. Breaking the barriers of nature between one womb and the other, John saw Him and cried out, "I see the Lord who imposed the limits on nature, and I need not wait for the time of my birth. That period of nine months is not necessary for me; He who is eternal is within me. I will go out of this dark tabernacle, I will preach my quickly acquired knowledge of these wonderful things. I am a sign, and I will signify the coming of Christ. I am a trumpet, and I will proclaim the dispensation of the Son of God in the flesh, I will sound the trumpet; by it I will bless my father's tongue and loose it so that he may speak. I will sound the trumpet, and vivify my mother's womb."

You see, my friend, how new and wonderful is this mystery. He is not yet born, and he speaks by leaping. He has not yet appeared, and he gives warnings. He is not yet allowed to cry out, and he is heard by his actions. He has not yet been born to life, and he proclaims God. He has not yet seen the light, and he points out the Sun. He had not yet been brought forth and he hastens to be a precursor.

For he cannot endure to be silent in the presence of the Lord; he cannot bear to await the times of nature, but strives to break the prison of the womb, eager to proclaim the coming Savior. "He who loosens bonds has come," he says. "Then why do I sit bound, why am I forced to remain here? The Word has come to establish all things. Shall I stay in captivity? I will go forth, I will run ahead and proclaim to all, 'Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

But tell us, John, when you are still shut up in the dark womb of your mother, how do you see and hear? How do you contemplate divine things? How do you leap and exult? "A great mystery," he says, "is taking place-- actions that are beyond human comprehension.

It is only right that I make innovations in nature to acknowledge Him who is going to renovate the supernatural I see, although I am still in the womb, because I see the Sun of Justice being carried in a womb. I hear, because the purpose of my birth is to make me the voice of the great Word. I cry out, because I perceive the Father's only-begotten Son clothed in the flesh.