



***“Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.”***

**(Luke 1:39-40)**

# **MARY: THE DIVINE ARK**

- “And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will **overshadow** you...” (Luke 1:35)
- “But Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of testimony because the cloud **overshadowed** it, and the tabernacle was filled with the glory of the Lord.” (Exodus 40:35)
- **Episkiazo (Greek) = overshadow; envelop in a haze of brilliancy**



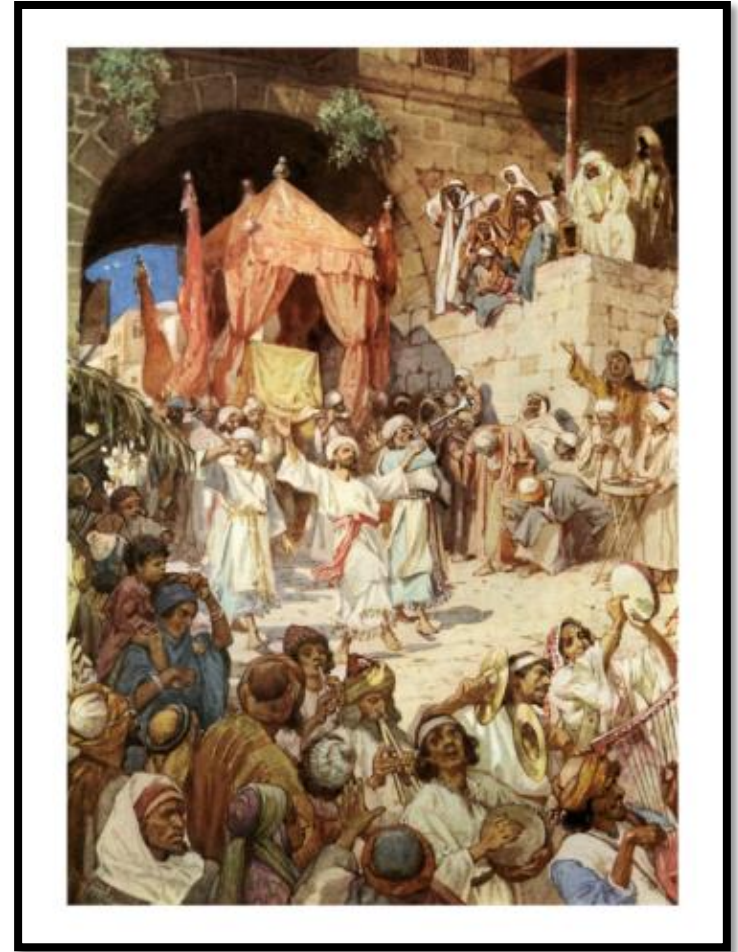
# The Arks Come to Jerusalem<sup>1</sup>

- The Greeting
  - “How can the ark of the Lord come to me?” (2 Sam 6:9)
  - “But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me.” (Luke 1:43)



# The Arks Come to Jerusalem<sup>2</sup>

- The Response
  - A joyful shout
  - “So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.” (2 Sam 6:15)
  - “Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said...” (Luke 1:42)



# The Arks Come to Jerusalem<sup>3</sup>

- The Response
  - A joyful leap
  - “Then David danced before the Lord with all his might...” (2 Sam 6:14); “Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David **leaping and whirling** before the Lord...” (2 Sam 6:16)
  - “And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe **leaped** in her womb...” (Luke 1:41)



# The Arks stay 3 months near Jerusalem

- “The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed- Edom the Gittite three months. And the Lord blessed Obed- Edom and all his household.” (2 Sam 6:11)
- “And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.” (Luke 1:56)



# The Arks return home

- “The Ark of the Covenant eventually returns to the sanctuary in Jerusalem, then later in the newly built temple.” (2 Sam 6:12; 1 Kings 8:9-11)
- St. Mary returned from visiting Elizabeth, then eventually went to Jerusalem where she presented the Son of God in the Temple.



# The contents of the Ark<sup>1</sup>

- Ark of the Covenant
  - Two Tablets, Manna, and Aaron's rod
- St. Mary
  - The Word of God
    - "...clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart." (2 Cor 3:3)



# The contents of the Ark<sup>2</sup>

- St. Mary
  - The Bread of Life
    - “I am the bread of life...the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” (John 6:48,58)
  - The High Priest
    - “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” (Heb 8:1-2)



*“Hail to the Mother of God, the rejoicing of  
angels.”*

(Tuesday Theotokia)

*“They spoke of you with honor, O City of God, for  
you are the dwelling place, of all the joyful.”*

(Wednesday Theotokia)