



“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

Tune and text: Public domain

This hymn has as its basis the angel Gabriel’s announcement that Mary would give birth to Jesus (Luke 1:26-38).

Mary was a teenager, 16-18 years old. She was betrothed to Joseph. Being betrothed was like being engaged, but not the same. Jewish betrothal was binding in ways that modern engagements are not. Betrothal usually preceded marriage by at least nine months, to assure that the bride was not pregnant. The man would give the bride’s family a gift, and the fathers of the families would sign a marriage document (*The Lutheran Study Bible*).

Because she was an unmarried virgin, Gabriel’s announcement must have come as a shock to Mary. Unlike Zechariah, Mary wondered in faith. To help Mary’s bewilderment, Gabriel gave her reasons to calm her.

- *Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!* (v. 28)
- *Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.* (v.30)
- *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.* (v. 31)
- *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (v. 32) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*
- *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.* (v. 35)
- *And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.* (v. 36)
- *For nothing will be impossible with God.* (v. 37)

One of the reasons Mary receives such high praise is her response to Gabriel: “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” That is a great example for us in this season of waiting.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, thank you for giving us such a powerful message concerning the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to depend solely on you, just as Mary did. Amen.

