

Luke 1:46-55 And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
 49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
 51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
 52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
 and exalted those of humble estate;  
 53 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent away empty.  
 54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
 55 as he spoke to our fathers,  
 to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

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## Announcements:

No Church on Sunday

## Luke 1:46-55 | The Magnificat

There are countless Christmas songs. Some better than others. But the first one, belongs to Jesus' mother, Mary. She proclaims it while she is still pregnant with Jesus, and she speaks both a word of praise for her position in this story and a prophetic word for what it means that Jesus is coming into the world. It's called, the Magnificat, from the Latin for magnify. Think, magnificent.

This song of Mary's teaches us how to sing about Jesus. We see how Jesus transforms our hearts, our world, and our eternity.

### 1. Our Hearts

Luke 1:46-48 ...“My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

Mary's heart is overflowing at the magnificence of the Lord. She says she herself magnifies the Lord. She shows or proclaims or demonstrates his magnificence. This might be taken as a statement of arrogance. Who are you to say you could magnify the Lord? But it isn't a statement of arrogance. It's far stranger than that. She desires to show the magnificent of the Lord through her humble position. She is in a humble estate, an un-wed mother, she calls herself a servant girl. And it is in this position that God sees her.

It is one thing to claim to be one who has seen God. I have received a special vision from the Lord, therefore follow me! But it is quite another to claim to be one who has been seen by God. What was it that drew God's vision towards her? Her majesty, beauty, position? She won't allow it to be considered, she is only a humble slave girl. No she is seen not because of her glory but because of the glory of God. God shows his glory in seeing the un- glorious. But now because of what God has done all generations will call this humble servant girl blessed.

Our hearts are transformed by Christ, just as Mary's was, when we see that it is not our glory that wins over the Lord, but his glory that saves us. We are not saved because of our own righteousness, but because of his unsearchable grace. Just like Mary, God comes to us in our humility so that he might usher us into his glory.

Luke 1:49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

Here is the first reason we sing on Christmas. Because in the incarnation the Lord has done wonderful things for me. You can even say it Christian, "For me." And do you see the wonder, it is also for his Holy name. How did God decide to demonstrate his glory, by saving sinners. Next Mary expands her focus to the world.

## 2. Our World

Luke 1:52-53 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good  
things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

Mary's voice becomes prophetic here, as she looks forward to the effect of Jesus in the world. She speaks in the past tense because she speaks with absolute certainty of what Jesus will accomplish. In so many words she says he will turn the world upside down.

Those who are on the bottom will be brought to the top and those who are on the top will be brought to the bottom. And don't you see this is what she has already experienced in her life. The very place of her humility becomes the object of her glory. Her low estate demonstrates the magnificence of the Lord. All of Jesus' life looks like this inversion.

But what is she talking about? When is the scene when Jesus overthrows the king? If you blink you might miss it. Because Jesus conquers by being defeated. He allows himself to be brought by the king into death itself, and death could not hold him. How can you coerce someone who can't be killed? Of course you go after their family. But what if his death saved them too? The world is turned upside down. The highest king went to the lowest place, so that we might be raised with him out of our low estate.

And you see, once death is dead, it is not just our kingdom's that change, but our eternities. Mary continues.

### 3. Our Eternity

Luke 1:54-55 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Mary embraces the connection that has been promised to her by the angel who visited her to tell her the news of Jesus. She sees that Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise God made thousands of years earlier to Abraham, that through his offspring all the families of the world would be blessed. And this blessing will go on forever. It is an eternal blessing.

1. So we worship Christ as the one who transforms our hearts. Takes us out of our sinful state and draws us into his glory, by his grace alone.
2. We worship Christ as one who transforms the world. So that our upside down world might be turned over again, and we might find our orientation in a life of worship towards the God who loves us.
3. And lastly we see that our eternity is secured by the one who conquered death.

In 1st Samuel, we meet Hannah. She spent years praying for a child, and the Lord gave her a son. In her gratitude she gave her son to the service of the Temple. Before giving her son to the service of the temple she prayed a prayer that sounds just like Mary's prayer here. Two mothers separated by thousands of years. Both would dedicate their sons to work in the temple.

But Mary's son was not just sent to serve God, but was God come to serve. He was not just offering sacrifices but he was the sacrifice. And in him our lives, our world, and our eternity find their answer. How do you sing to someone like that?