



The First

SONGS

OF

CHRISTMAS

LIBERTI

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

The Song of Mary

Luke 1:26-56

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be.

³⁰ Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

Luke 1:26-56

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, “How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man? ”

³⁵ The angel replied to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And consider your relative Elizabeth — even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸ “See, I am the Lord’s servant,” said Mary. “May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-56

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and your child will be blessed! ⁴³ How could this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For you see, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped for joy inside me. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill what he has spoken to her! "

And Mary said:

Luke 1:26-56

My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ because he has looked with favor
on the humble condition of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ because the Mighty One
has done great things for me,
and his name is holy.
⁵⁰ His mercy is from generation to generation

Luke 1:26-56

on those who fear him.

⁵¹ He has done a mighty deed with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
because of the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has toppled the mighty from their thrones
and exalted the lowly.

⁵³ He has satisfied the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy

Luke 1:26-56

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he spoke to our ancestors.

⁵⁶ And Mary stayed with her about three months; then she
returned to her home.

Rejoicing in God

My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Luke 1:46-47 CSB

It's the gospel before the gospel, a fierce bright shout of triumph thirty weeks before Bethlehem, thirty years before Calvary and Easter. It goes with a swing and a clap and a stamp. It's all about God, and it's all about revolution. And it's all because of Jesus — Jesus who's only just been conceived, not yet born, but who has made Mary giddy with excitement and hope and triumph.

N.T. WRIGHT

Recalling God's Faithfulness

⁴⁸ because he has looked with favor
on the humble condition of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ because the Mighty One
has done great things for me,
and his name is holy.

⁵⁰ His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him.

Luke 1:48–50 CSB

Remembering that He is the God of Unexpected Reversals

⁵¹ He has done a mighty deed with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
because of the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² he has toppled the mighty from their thrones
and exalted the lowly.
⁵³ He has satisfied the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

Luke 1:51–53 CSB

Remembering that He is the God of Unexpected Reversals

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he spoke to our ancestors.

Luke 1:54–55 CSB

Remembering that He is the God of Unexpected Reversals

¹ “My heart rejoices in the Lord;
in the Lord my horn is lifted high.

⁶ “The Lord brings death and makes alive;
he brings down to the grave and raises up.

⁷ The Lord sends poverty and wealth;
he humbles and he exalts.

⁸ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;
he seats them with princes
and has them inherit a throne of honour.

1 Samuel 2:1, 6–8 NIV

Remembering that He is the God of Unexpected Reversals

Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted

Luke 14:11

Faith is the refusal to panic, come what may.

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

