

MARY'S SONG

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips;
And our mouth
shall show forth your praise.

O God,
make speed to save us.
O Lord,
make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son:
and to the Spirit

As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen.



Heavenly Father,
fill our hearts with the joy that
comes from knowing your love.

May we rejoice
in the good news of salvation
and share that joy with others
during this season of Advent.

Amen.



[LISTEN TO AUDIO @ proclaimministries.com/advent](https://proclaimministries.com/advent)

PSALM 8

1 O Lord, our Lord,
how magnificent is your reputation throughout the earth!
You reveal your majesty in the heavens above!

2 From the mouths of children and nursing babies
you have ordained praise on account of your adversaries,
so that you might put an end to the vindictive enemy.

3 When I look up at the heavens,
which your fingers made,
and see the moon and the stars,
which you set in place,

4 Of what importance is the human race,
that you should notice them?

Of what importance is mankind,
that you should pay attention to them,

5 and make them a little less than the heavenly beings?

You grant mankind honor and majesty;
6 you appoint them to rule over your creation;
you have placed everything under their authority,

7 including all the sheep and cattle,
as well as the wild animals,

8 the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea and everything that
moves through the currents of the seas.

9 O Lord, our Lord, how magnificent is your reputation
throughout the earth!

CONFESSION

O Father,
we are gathered before you,
the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place
is with the broken and contrite,
to confess
that we have sinned in thought
and word and deed;
we have not loved you
with all our heart and soul,
we have not loved you
with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our
neighbor as ourselves.

Purge us from selfishness,
the fear of man,
and the love of praise.

In your mercy,
deepen our sorrow
for the wrong we have done
and for the good
we have left undone,
so that we may hate our sin
with a holy hatred.

But, please Father,
do not leave us in sorrow.

With you, O Lord,
there is forgiveness.
In your mercy,
restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love you with a holy
love.

Amen.



Almighty God,
who does freely pardon
all who repent and turn to Him,
now fulfill in every contrite heart
the promise of redeeming grace;
forgiving all our sins,
and cleansing us from
an evil conscience;
through the perfect sacrifice of
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

2 SAMUEL 7:8-17

8 "So now, say this to my servant David: 'This is what the Lord of hosts says: I took you from the pasture and from your work as a shepherd to make you leader of my people Israel. 7:9 I was with you wherever you went, and I defeated all your enemies before you. Now I will make you as famous as the great men of the earth.

...The Lord declares to you that he himself will build a dynastic house for you. 12 When the time comes for you to die, I will raise up your descendant, one of your own sons, to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He will build a house for my name, and I will make his dynasty permanent. 14 I will become his father and he will become my son. When he sins, I will correct him with the rod of men and with wounds inflicted by human beings. 15 But my loyal love will not be removed from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will stand before me permanently; your dynasty will be permanent.' "

17 Nathan told David all these words that were revealed to him.

ISAIAH 7:13-14

13 So Isaiah replied, "Pay attention, family of David. Do you consider it too insignificant to try the patience of men? Is that why you are also trying the patience of my God? 14 For this reason the sovereign master himself will give you a confirming sign. Look, this young woman is about to conceive and will give birth to a son. You, young woman, will name him Immanuel.

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-17

14 Shout for joy, Daughter Zion! Shout out, Israel!
Be happy and boast with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!
15 The Lord has removed the judgment against you; he has
turned back your enemy.
Israel's king, the Lord, is in your midst!
You no longer need to fear disaster.
16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Don't be afraid,
Zion! Your hands must not be paralyzed from panic!

THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

Brothers and sisters,

as we joyfully await
the glorious coming of the Christ,

let us pray for the needs
of the church, our community,
and the world.



Pause here to note and pray for:
- personal concerns - prayer for family - friends
and neighbors - church leaders - community &
government - thanksgiving & praise

Concluding with:



God of joy and exultation,
you strengthen what is weak;
you enrich the poor
and give hope
to those who live in fear.

Look upon our needs this day.

Make us grateful
for the good news of salvation
and keep us faithful in your service
until the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives for ever and ever.

Amen.

17 The Lord your God is in your midst; he is a warrior who can deliver. He takes great delight in you; he renews you by his love; he shouts for joy over you."

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

9 Rejoice greatly, daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! Look! Your king is coming to you: he is legitimate and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey— on a young donkey, the foal of a female donkey. 10 I will remove the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be removed. Then he will announce peace to the nations. His dominion will be from sea to sea and from the Euphrates River to the ends of the earth.

LUKE 1:26-56

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled by his words and began to wonder about the meaning of this greeting. 30 So the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! 31 Listen: You will become pregnant 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 never end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I have not been intimate with a man?" 35 The angel replied, "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 holy; he will be called the Son of God.

36 "And look, your relative Elizabeth has also become pregnant with a son in her old age—although she was called barren, she is now in her sixth month! 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 So Mary said, "Yes, I am a servant of the Lord; let this happen to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.



COLLECT (CLOSING PRAYER)

Lord Jesus, Master
of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our
preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear
your voice each day,
We who are anxious over many things
look forward to
your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy
of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in
darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
- Henri J.M. Nouwen

May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.

Amen

39 In those days Mary got up and went hurriedly into the hill country, to a town of Judah, 40 and entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 She exclaimed with a loud voice, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! 43 And who am I that the mother of my Lord should come and visit me? 44 For the instant the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

46 And Mary said,

"My soul exalts the Lord,

47 and my spirit has begun to rejoice in God my Savior,
48 because he has looked upon the humble state of his servant.

For from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 because he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

50 from generation to generation
he is merciful to those who fear him.

51 He has demonstrated power with his arm;
he has scattered those whose pride wells up
from the sheer arrogance of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up those of lowly position;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and has sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,

55 as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

56 So Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-31

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

4 I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God that was given to you in Christ Jesus. 5 For you were made rich in every

LISTEN

Firm Foundation (He Won't)

- Cody Carnes 2021

Joyful Joyful

- Jvck James, 2022

(Original music: Ludwig van Beethoven
1824 & lyrics by Henry van Dyke, 1907)

REFLECT



Magnificat

-James Tissot, 1894



Mary and Elizabeth

-Lauren Wright Pittman, 2018

way in him, in all your speech and in every kind of knowledge—
6 just as the testimony about Christ has been confirmed among
you— 7 so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you wait for the
revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to
the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into fellowship
with his son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

...

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will
thwart the cleverness of the intelligent." 20 Where is the wise man?
Where is the expert in the Mosaic law? Where is the debater of this
age? Has God not made the wisdom of the world foolish? 21 For
since in the wisdom of God the world by its wisdom did not know
God, God was pleased to save those who believe by the
foolishness of preaching. 22 For Jews demand miraculous signs
and Greeks ask for wisdom, 23 but we preach about a crucified
Christ, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.
24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the
power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of
God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is
stronger than human strength.

26 Think about the circumstances of your call, brothers and sisters.
Not many were wise by human standards, not many were powerful,
not many were born to a privileged position. 27 But God chose
what the world thinks foolish to shame the wise, and God chose
what the world thinks weak to shame the strong. 28 God chose
what is low and despised in the world, what is regarded as nothing,
to set aside what is regarded as something, 29 so that no one can
boast in his presence. 30 He is the reason you have a relationship
with Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and
righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is
written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."



READ

What ways did you choose to read the text this week?

☐ read the pdf ☐ listen to audio ☐ read aloud

Summarize the reading. Where do you see the theme of hope in the text?

REFLECT

How did you choose to reflect this week?

☐ Art ☐ Music ☐ Journal/Discussion

What stood out to you from the reading and reflection this week? What did you notice about God, yourself, or the world?

What are you curious about? What questions, ideas, or texts would you like to explore more?

RESPOND

How will you respond to the text?

☐ Pray ☐ Worship ☐ Repent ☐ Act

What would it look like for you to respond this week?

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THE SONGS OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS



WORKBOOK



ACTIVITY PACK



ART & MUSIC



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