



The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

[First 3 lines: 1 Sam. 2:1; Ps. 34:1-3;
Hab. 3:18; Sir. 10:14]

[1 Sam. 1:11]

[Gen. 17:7, Ex. 3:15]

[Ps. 126:3]

[Ps. 111:9]

[Ps. 111:10; Prov. 1:7]

[Ex. 15:6; Ex. 6:6; Ps. 89:10, 13]

[Prov. 29:23]

[1 Sam. 2:8; Isa. 40:4]

[1 Sam. 2:5; Ps. 107:9]

[Isa. 41:8-10]

[Last three lines: Gen. 17:6-8, 18:18, 22:17;
2 Sam. 7:8-18 (esp. 12ff.)]

Taken from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, p. 119

Mary's Song Compared to Hannah's Song

The Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)	The Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10) <i>Portions in bold share connections with the Magnificat</i>
<p>My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.</p> <p>For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. ^[L]_[SEP]</p> <p>For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. ^[L]_[SEP]</p> <p>For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.</p> <p>And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. ^[L]_[SEP]</p> <p>He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ^[L]_[SEP]</p> <p>He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. ^[L]_[SEP]</p> <p>He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. ^[L]_[SEP]</p> <p>He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.</p>	<p>My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God.</p> <p>My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.</p> <p>‘There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them he has set the world.</p> <p>‘He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.’</p>

Hannah's prayer for a child (1 Sam. 1:11): **“O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant,** but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death.”

Other Hebrew Women's Songs of Deliverance

The Song of Miriam

Exodus 15:20-21

Then Moses *and the Israelites* sang this song to the Lord

'I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my might,
and he has become my salvation;

this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a warrior;
the Lord is his name.

'Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—
your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.

At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them."

You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

'Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?

Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

You stretched out your right hand,
the earth swallowed them.

'In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

The peoples heard, they trembled;
pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed;
trembling seized the leaders of Moab;
all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.

Terror and dread fell upon them;
by the might of your arm, they became still as a stone
until your people, O Lord, passed by,
until the people whom you acquired passed by.

You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,
the place, O Lord, that you made your abode,
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.
The Lord will reign for ever and ever.’

Then the prophet **Miriam**, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

The Song of Deborah Judges 5 (excerpt)

Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:
‘When locks are long in Israel,
when the people offer themselves willingly—
bless the Lord!

‘Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the Lord I will sing,
I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.

The Song of Judith Judith 16 (excerpt)

And Judith said,
Begin a song to my God with tambourines,
sing to my Lord with cymbals.
Raise to him a new psalm;
exalt him, and call upon his name.
For the Lord is a God who crushes wars;
he sets up his camp among his people;
he delivered me from the hands of my pursuers.

... But the Lord Almighty has foiled them
by the hand of a woman.
For their mighty one did not fall by the hands of the young men,
nor did the sons of the Titans strike him down,
nor did tall giants set upon him;
but Judith daughter of Merari
with the beauty of her countenance undid him.

... I will sing to my God a new song:
O Lord, you are great and glorious,
wonderful in strength, invincible.
Let all your creatures serve you,
for you spoke, and they were made.

You sent forth your spirit, and it formed them;
there is none that can resist your voice.
For the mountains shall be shaken to their foundations with the waters;
before your glance the rocks shall melt like wax.
But to those who fear you
you show mercy.
For every sacrifice as a fragrant offering is a small thing,
and the fat of all whole burnt-offerings to you is a very little thing;
but whoever fears the Lord is great for ever.