

ADVENT

TRANSFORMING LOVE

Luke 1:46-55 | The First Christmas Carol

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.



¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.



¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.



¹² And this shall be a sign unto you;
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.



¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,



¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace, good will toward men.

—Luke 2:9-14 KJV



“The song of Mary is the oldest Advent hymn. It is at once the most passionate, the wildest, the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung. For this is not the tender, gentle, dreamy Mary. This is the passionate Mary who speaks out here...



This song has none of the sweet, nostalgic or even playful tones of some of our Christmas carols. It is instead a hard, strong, inexorable song about collapsing thrones and humbled lords. It is about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind.”

—Dietrich Boenhoeffer



46 And Mary said:

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



48 for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations
will call me blessed,



49 for the Mighty One has done
great things for me—
holy is his name.



50 His mercy extends to those
who fear him,
from generation to generation.



51 He has performed mighty deeds
with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud
in their inmost thoughts.



52 He has brought down rulers
from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.



53 He has filled the hungry
with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.



54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful



⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants
forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”
—Luke 1:46-55



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46 And Mary said:

“My soul **glorifies** the Lord
47 and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior,

—Luke 1:46-47



46 And Mary said,
“My soul **magnifies** the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior,

—Luke 1:46-47



“The more grace we have, the more this is open to our view. The greater sense we have of the infinite excellency and glory and dignity of the person of Christ. The boundless height, width, length and breadth of the love of Christ to sinners...



Then the soul is swallowed up with the vastness of the object. And the person is astonished at how much it becomes him to love God—his glorious redeemer.”

—Jonathan Edwards



46 And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices **in God**
my Savior,

—Luke 1:46-47



49 for the **Mighty** One has done
great things for me—
holy is his name.

—Luke 1:49



⁵⁰ His **mercy** extends to those
who fear him,
from generation to generation.

—Luke 1:50



48 for he has been mindful
of the **humble** state of his servant.
From now on all generations
will call me blessed,

—Luke 1:48



- 51 He has performed mighty deeds
with his arm; he has scattered those
who are proud in their inmost
thoughts.
- 52 He has brought down rulers from their
thrones but has lifted up the humble.
- 53 He has filled the hungry with good
things but has sent the rich
away empty. —Luke 1:51-53



⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was
on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

—Isaiah 53:4-5



49 for the **Mighty** One has done
great things for me—
holy is his name.

—Luke 1:49



“Mary dares by this one word to make all the strong feeble; all the mighty, weak; all the wise, foolish; all the famous despised—and God alone the possessor of all strength and wisdom and glory.”

—Martin Luther



51 He has performed mighty deeds
with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud
in their inmost thoughts.
—Luke 1:51



53 He has filled the hungry
with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
—Luke 1:53



52 He has brought down rulers
from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

—Luke 1:52



⁹ Therefore **God exalted him to the highest place** and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

—Philippians 2:9-11



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“My soul magnifies the Lord,
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—Luke 1:46-47



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