

**“Christmas Hymn Of Praise”  
Luke 1:46-56  
Sunday Morning December 24, 2017**

**Hymn** – “a song of praise to God, to honor God, or to glorify God.”

**The Setting Of Mary’s Hymn is 9 Months Before The Birth Of Jesus! Luke 1:46 – “And Mary said: ‘My soul “exalts” the Lord,’”** – The word “**exalts**” means “to glorify, or magnify;” or the word “**Magnificat**” or “**A Hymn Of Praise.**”

**Mary’s Faith Is Displayed In Her Praise.** It resembles Hannah’s in **1 Samuel 2:1-10.**

**Luke 1:46 – “And Mary said: ‘My soul exalts the Lord,’”**

**Mary’s mind was full of Scripture; 15 quotations from the OT in this Hymn. Mary was a woman of the Word.**

**The Thought Of Our Passage:** The Message Of Christmas Causes The Heart To Give Praise For God’s Goodness And His Faithfulness.

- 1. Verses 46-50 – Mary Praises God**
- 2. Verses 51-55 – Mary Remembers God**

**1. Verses 46-50 – Mary Praises God:**

Luke 1:46 – “And Mary said: ‘My soul exalts the Lord,’”

“And Mary said:” – Context: Mary had been visited by the angel Gabriel. She has been chosen by God to bear the Messiah, Luke 1:35.

Luke 1:40-45

Mary now responds! “My soul exalts the Lord,” – The word “**exalts**” – “to make great, magnify, show great.” Literally, “My soul enlarges the Lord, My soul makes great the Lord.”

Luke 1:47 – Notice who the Savior is! Mary rejoices in God.

Notice that Mary needed a Savior! (Mary speaks for all at Christmas!) We need a Savior, it is Christ the Lord!

Luke 1:48

Humility In Our Physical Condition: Mary was from the town of Nazareth, which was a very poor town in Galilee.

1 Samuel 1:11

"look on the affliction" – or "humble state" – "of Thy maidservant and remember me."

Humility In Our Spiritual Condition: "of His bonds slave;" – "a female slave."

Psalms 34:18

"For behold," – or "Look;" speaks of an exclamation of surprise. Why is she surprised? Because God has had mercy on Mary's "humble state of His bonds slave;"

Luke 1:42 – "Blessed... among" not above.

Luke 1:49

"For the Mighty One"

Jesus was called in Isaiah 9:6, "Mighty God" or "Mighty Hero God." Jesus would live a sinless life, go to the cross, die, He would raise Himself from the dead and He would ascend to heaven to intercede for us. What a hero!

"And holy is His name." – The angel Gabriel had told Mary that Jesus would be holy, Luke 1:35.

"God Is Holy;" What Does That Mean? "God is absent of sin, and the essence of goodness, or righteousness," Not darkness; pure righteousness.

Holiness Is The Chief Attribute of God: Matthew 6:9 – "Hallowed be Your name."

Psalms 29:2 (NLT) – "in the splendor of his holiness."

Application To God's Holiness: "God Always Does That Which Is Right. It Is Impossible For God To Sin Or Do That Which Is Wrong."

1 Peter 1:16 – "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

Hebrews 12:14

Luke 1:50 – "AND HIS MERCY" – It has been defined as "gracious faithfulness."

“IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION” – Every family, every generation is filled with sin, but God mercifully works!

“TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.” – (Conditional) The word “fear” – “to be alarmed or to frighten, to reverence HIM.”

A Reverence/Fear For God Will Result In The Mercy Of God!

## **2. Verses 51-55 – Mary Remembers God:**

Luke 1:51

“He has done mighty deeds with His arm;” – Mary Looks Back On God’s Past Faithfulness.

Notice “He has done mighty deeds;” “He has scattered”

Luke 1:52-54

Romans 8:30

Matthew 23:12

Luke 1:52

“He has brought down rulers from their thrones,” – Maybe Mary had Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:27-35) and then later his grandson Belshazzar in mind.

Herod Agrippa – Acts 12:22-23

“And has exalted those who were humble.”

Joseph, to second in charge of Egypt; Esther, to queen of the Medo-Persian Empire; Daniel elevated to administrator by Darius of the Medes.

This is what the Gospel does, it humbles all. We must come to God on His terms and acknowledge our great need, 1 Peter 5:6.

Luke 1:53

“HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS;” – In Hannah’s song she says a similar thing, 1 Samuel 2:7-8.

Psalm 107:9

“AND SENT AWAY THE RICH EMPTY-HANDED.” – Those that are full and think that they have no need for anything but what they have, they have a great need.

Being spiritually bankrupt (hungry) is a blessed experience: It can drive us to God!

Matthew 5:6

Luke 1:54-55

Genesis 12:3

Luke 1:56

**Application:**

1. God Is Opposed To The Proud, Gives Grace To The Humble.
2. God’s Mercy Follows The Fear Of The Lord.
3. God’s Promises Are Sure. Proven In The Past, Trustworthy For The Present And Sure For The Future.