

## Week Four Supplementary The Magnificat—For further study

You might also like to look at Mary's song in Luke. The song is so well known that it can be hard to look at it afresh. So below are two different versions of Mary's song to help you reflect on it a little.

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

I'm bursting with God-news;  
I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.  
God took one good look at me, and look what happened—  
I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!  
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,  
the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.  
His mercy flows in wave after wave  
on those who are in awe before him.  
He bared his arm and showed his strength,  
scattered the bluffing braggarts.  
He knocked tyrants off their high horses,  
pulled victims out of the mud.  
The starving poor sat down to a banquet;  
the callous rich were left out in the cold.  
He embraced his chosen child, Israel;  
he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.  
It's exactly what he promised,  
beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

### The Message

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Today I look into my own heart  
and all around me, and I sing the song of Mary.  
My life praises the Lord my God,  
who is setting me free.  
He has remembered me in my humiliation and distress!  
From now on those who rejected and ignored me  
will see me and call me happy  
because of the great things he is doing  
in my humble life.  
His name is completely different from the other names in the world  
from one generation to another

he was on the side of the oppressed.  
As on the day of the Exodus, he is stretching out  
his mighty arm to scatter the oppressors  
with all their evil plans.  
He had brought down mighty kings  
from their thrones  
and has lifted up the despised:  
and so he will do today.  
He has filled the exploited with good things  
And sent the exploiters away with empty hands;  
and so he will do today.  
His promise to our mothers and fathers remains new and fresh  
to this day.  
Therefore the hope for liberation  
which is burning in me  
will not be extinguished  
He will remember me, here now and beyond the grave.

Zephania Kameeta, Namibia

Mary's Song of Praise in *Why O Lord?* (World Council of Churches, 1986)  
in Janet Morley (ed) *Bread of Tomorrow. Praying with the World's Poor* (London: SPCK, 1995)

## Questions

1. Have you ever had this feeling of overwhelming joy because of something God has done?
2. Do you see evidence in the world around you that God is continuing to knock tyrants from off their high horses?
3. What do you think God might want you to do to continue to fight against oppression?

## Links

Links to more detailed study  
<http://www.textweek.com/mtlk/lk1b.htm>

Links to Artwork  
<http://www.textweek.com/art/visitation.htm>