

Liturgy – “Rejoice: Sing a new song”



Theme scripture Luke 1:46-48

Full text of Luke 1:46-55

Call to worship

One: Mary rejoiced—Mother Mary, Mother of God*—
Saying, “My soul magnifies the Lord!”

All: Let us magnify God!

One: Mary—bearer of the Holy One—rejoiced, proclaiming,
“My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!”

All: Let us rejoice in God our Savior!

One: Mary—participant in the incarnation (the embodiment of the divine)—sang,
God looked with favor on my lowliness!

**All: Let us sing together for God has stooped low to walk with us!
Hallelujah the Prince of Peace will come!**

* Θεοτόκος (God bearer or Mother of God)—used especially in Eastern Christianity

Opening prayer

Oh God, who has created and sustains us; your work compels, invites, and leads us to song. We, along with Mary, sing a song of rejoicing. At times (perhaps often) we lose sight of the coming Christ child. In those times when our song of praise grows silent, we ask that you fill us again at the wonder of your great and marvelous work. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray, Amen.

Suggested hymns and songs

Canticle of the Turning (Sing the Story #124)

Come thou long expected Jesus (Hymnal: A Worship Book #178)

Magnificat

Holy is your name (My soul is filled with joy) (Sing the Journey #13)

Invitation to the offering

As we move through this season of Advent—the preparation for the coming of Jesus—may we recognize the gift and participate in giving. We are called into *both* joyful receiving and giving. May we receive with gratitude and give with grace. We have received much and are called to give freely, of time, prayer, love, attention, and finances.

Sermon starter

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for the Lord has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.” -Luke 1:46-48

Mary’s song begins with rejoicing in the work of God. This work was a significant calling on her life. Her world was imbued with the action of God but also turned upside down by a call to participate in this work. And this was not passive participation and observing, but a co-creating and forming of the Christ Child. Not only did this radically change her life but would turn the world upside down—scattering the proud, bringing down rulers, lifting the humble, filling the hungry, and sending the rich away empty.

The song of Mary echoes in Acts 17 as the Good News is being proclaimed. The accusation brought against the disciples is, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also.” The disciples were rejoicing and abiding in the presence and work of God while proclaiming and working for a world where well-being, justice, wholeness, and peace flourish.

As we seek to share the Good News in this season, may we, too, rejoice in the work of God, singing a new song for the world to hear.

Suggested resources

“Making the Connection” <https://www.brethren.org/ac/statements/1986-making-the-connection/>

Christian Lifestyle <https://www.brethren.org/ac/statements/1980-christian-lifestyle/>

WCC- The Economy of Life An Invitation to Theological Reflection and Action

<https://www.oikoumene.org/sites/default/files/Document/EconomyOfLifeAnInvitationToTheologicalReflAction.pdf>

Benediction

Dear sisters and brothers, let us go out with rejoicing!

Proclaiming and participating in the work of the Holy One.

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