

Hannah's Song and Mary's Song

Name: _____

Read the passages below.

In the First Book of Samuel, we read about Hannah, a woman with no children who prayed to the Lord: "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your maidservant, and remember me, and not forget your maidservant, but will give to your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life" (1:11). Hannah's prayer and vow bore fruit. She gave birth to Samuel, whom God would raise to become a great prophet and judge of Israel.

In response to the great miracle God worked in Hannah's life by causing her to conceive and bear a son, Hannah lifted a song of praise and thanksgiving to God:

The Song of Hannah: 1 Samuel 2:1–2, 4–5, 7

1 Sam 2:1–2,
4–5, 7

2 ¹My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.

²There is none holy like the LORD,
there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God. . . .

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken,

but the feeble gird on strength.

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves
out for bread,

but those who were hungry have ceased to
hunger. . . .

⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.

As we have learned, God prefigured important people and events from the New Testament in the Old Testament. After the Angel Gabriel announced God's plan for Mary to conceive the Son of God in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary, like Hannah, lifted a song of praise and thanksgiving to God.

We call Mary's Song her Magnificat, which comes from the first word of its first line in Latin:

The Song of Mary: Luke 1:46–55

1 ⁴⁶And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has regarded the low estate of his
handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all generations will call
me blessed;
⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for
me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰And his mercy is on those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm,
he has scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts,

⁵²he has put down the mighty from their
thrones,

and exalted those of low degree;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

Lk 1:46–55

Fill in the blanks by writing which verses from Mary’s Magnificat in Luke 1 correspond most closely with the verses from Hannah’s Song in 1 Samuel 2.

Hannah’s Song 1 Samuel 2	Mary’s Song Luke 1
“My heart exults in the <i>LORD</i> ; my strength is exalted in the <i>LORD</i> ” (2:1; emphasis added).	Lk 1: _____ – _____
“There is none holy like the <i>LORD</i> ” (2:2; emphasis added).	Lk 1: _____
“The bows of the mighty are broken, but <i>the feeble</i> gird on strength. . . . The <i>LORD</i> makes poor and makes <i>rich</i> ; he brings low, <i>he also exalts</i> ” (2:4, 7; emphasis added).	Lk 1: _____ – _____
“Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but <i>those who were hungry have ceased to hunger</i> ” (2:5; emphasis added).	Lk 1: _____

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us, “The [Song] of Mary, the *Magnificat*, . . . is the song both of the Mother of God and of the Church; . . . the song of thanksgiving for the fullness of graces poured out . . . and the song of the ‘poor’ whose hope is met by the fulfillment of the promises made to our ancestors, ‘to Abraham and to his posterity for ever’” (CCC 2619).

Take a few minutes to pray with Mary’s Magnificat. **Then in the space provided below, write your prayer of thanksgiving to God for his grace in your life. Feel free to use some phrases from Hannah’s Song and Mary’s Magnificat as inspiration for your prayer.**