

Cork Scripture Group

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105



Website: www.corkscripturegroup.com

Texts for Luke's Canticles

Marian Mortell (October 2023)

The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

1:46-50	1:51-55
And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the <u>lowliness</u> of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the <u>Mighty One has done great things</u> for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His <u>mercy</u> is for those who fear him from generation to generation	⁵¹ He has shown <u>strength</u> with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the <u>lowly</u> ; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his <u>mercy</u> , ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

What are the key points in this prayer? Can you see the links between the first section and the second?

In your own time read Hannah's Prayer and see the connections with the Magnificat.

Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.² "There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.³ Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts.⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail.¹⁰ The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed."

The Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79)

1:68-75	1:76-79
<p>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty <u>savior</u> for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy <u>prophets</u> from of old, ⁷¹ that we would be <u>saved</u> from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷² Thus he has shown the <u>mercy</u> promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.</p>	<p>And you, child, will be called the <u>prophet</u> of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of <u>salvation</u> to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ By the tender <u>mercy</u> of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."</p>

What does this canticle tell us about the history of salvation? Is it relevant as a prayer today?

The Gloria (Luke 2:14)

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

Do we neglect this type of prayer . . . praise of God?

Nunc Dimittis (Luke 29-32)

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

What is the main theme in this canticle?