

Prayer:

Lord, in every need let me come to You with humble trust saying, "Jesus, help me.". In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations, Jesus, help me. In hours of loneliness, weariness, and trials, Jesus, help me.

In the failure of my plans and hopes; in disappointments, troubles, and sorrows, Jesus, help me.

Lectionary Reading

Luke 1:26-38 New International Version (NIV)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

Singing the Faith 187

1 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame ;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria !

2 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold ;
most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria !

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name : '
most highly favoured lady.
Gloria !

4 Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
'Most highly favoured lady.'
Gloria !

God is with us

Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble ;
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea ;
- 3 Though the waters rage and swell,
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of her ; therefore shall she not be removed ;
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 6 The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken,
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us ;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 8 Come and behold the works of the Lord,
what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.
- 9 He makes wars to cease in all the world ;
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear and burns the chariots in the fire.
- 10 'Be still, and know that I am God ;
I will be exalted among the nations ; I will be exalted in the earth.'
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us ;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

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Closing Prayer

You are a generous God.
You open your heart and you fill our lives with your blessings.
You open your heart and you fill our heart with your love.
Teach us to be generous as you are generous.
And free us to share all we have and are
with our sisters and brothers whoever they may be.
Make us compassionate in all things,
so, what we do in your name kindles compassion in others
And reflects your loving concern for all creation.
Amen.