

Psalm 80:1-7

For the choir director: A psalm of Asaph, to be sung to the tune “Lilies of the Covenant.”

Please listen, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph’s descendants like a flock.

O God, enthroned above the cherubim,
display your radiant glory to Ephraim,
Benjamin, and Manasseh.

Show us your mighty power. Come to rescue us!
Turn us again to yourself, O God.

Make your face shine down upon us.

Only then will we be saved.

O Lord God of Heaven’s Armies,
how long will you be angry with our prayers?
You have fed us with sorrow and made us drink
tears by the bucketful.

You have made us the scorn of neighbouring
nations.

Our enemies treat us as a joke.

Turn us again to yourself, O God of Heaven’s
Armies.

Make your face shine down upon us.

Only then will we be saved.

Luke 1:39-55

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honoured, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,

and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One is holy,

and he has done great things for me.

He shows mercy from generation to generation

to all who fear him.

His mighty arm has done tremendous things!

He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

He has brought down princes from their thrones

and exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away with empty hands.

He has helped his servant Israel

and remembered to be merciful.

For he made this promise to our ancestors,

to Abraham and his children forever."