

Mary's Song – Luke 1:46-55

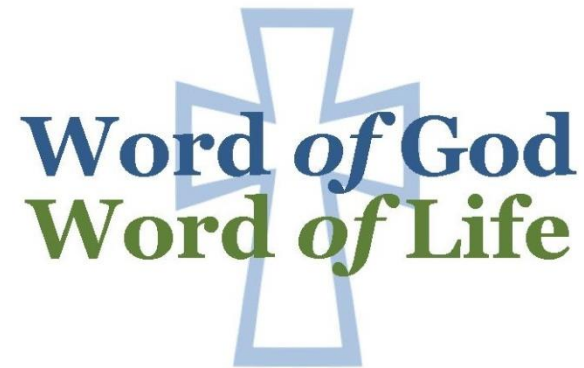
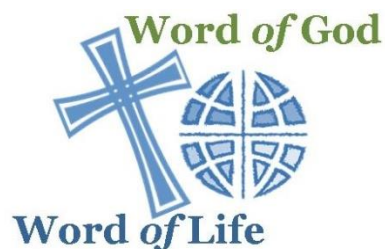
Our hope is that we will receive our core passage for December as an astonishing gift that inspires, enriches, and shapes our heartfelt response to Jesus' entry into our world, our congregation, and our daily lives.

Below are several suggestions of how we might sing in our hearts and with one another Mary's joyous praise of God our Savior.

- Read Luke's first chapter several times trying to picture the events and people involved in the entry of the long awaited Messiah
- With your phone or computer's search engine look for images of the "Annunciation", "Visitation", and "Magnificat". Choose a few that speak to you. You may be drawn to those that seem historically realistic or those who set these events in a different time and place.
- Listen to different musical settings of Mary's Song. One way to do this is to search for "Magnificat" on You Tube. The versions by Bernadette Farrell, Color Me 4 Life, and the familiar setting by Marty Haugen are recommended.
- Memorize Mary's Song, perhaps with the help of a musical setting, singing it to yourself at spare moments.
- Let a phrase from Mary's Song accompany you throughout a day.
- Read/sing Mary's Song together with family and friends.
- The Adult Forum will explore Mary's Song, Sunday mornings at 9:30, December 2, 9, and 16.

In every way we experience Mary's song we will confront Luke's insistence that in Jesus Christ the world has turned in a great reversal. Or in the words of Martin Luther:

Just as God in the beginning of creation made the world out of nothing... so His manner of working continues unchanged. Even now and to the end of the world, all His works are such that out of that which is nothing, worthless, despised, wretched and dead, He makes that which is something, precious, honorable, blessed and living.



A Commitment to living with the Scriptures Together
September 2018 – May 2019

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Prayer of the Day from the *Book of Common Prayer* for the Sunday closest to November 16)

Our remaining focus Scripture passages for 2018-19 are:

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| • Luke 1:46-55 | December | (Incarnation) |
| • Romans 8:14-39 | January | (Children of God) |
| • Luke 9:28-36 | February | (Transfiguration) |
| • Philippians 2:1-11 | March | (Lent) |
| • Luke 24:1-51 | April | (Easter) |
| • Psalm 104 | May | (Care of Creation) |

In this initiative we are confident that our still-speaking God will bless our efforts to hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest God's Word of Life.