



Luke 1:46b-55 New Revised Standard Version

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
 Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name;
⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”



I Want a Song

“A good song takes on more meaning as the years pass by.”
 Bruce Springsteen

I was 13 and, if I asked once, I probably asked 50 times: “Can I have a stereo for Christmas?” Weeks before Christmas, I found the perfect model in one of the weekly store circulars and knew that it was the one. Over and over, my parents would leave me hanging with the all-too-common, “You’ll have to wait and see!” That ended up being my “big thing” for Christmas that year and it gave me a good number of years of enjoyment until the CD player went out. I suppose it was during those teenage years that I came to appreciate music and still enjoy a wide range today.

Perhaps you can remember your first stereo, record player or radio as well. You don’t have to be a musician or trained vocalist to appreciate a good song. From gospel and country to beach and rock, most people have a particular genre toward which they gravitate when driving down the highway or getting in a few miles at the gym. Songs have a way of pumping us up, communicating emotions, or soothing our worn-out souls.

Today’s reading from Luke 1 is a song which serves as an alternate reading to this week’s Psalter Lesson. Over the years, this text has come to be known as “The Magnificat” which is taken from the opening words of the Latin biblical translation known as “The Vulgate.” Here, we find a hymn of praise which acknowledges God’s favor upon Mary, but also speaks of that which God will do for the benefit of this broken world at large. The verbiage used by Mary is past tense in the original language and, as Fred Craddock has stated, “expresses what is timelessly true: past, present, and future without differentiation.”

I wonder, “What would your song be this year?” Go to one of our hymnals and you will find a number of well-known carols which are sung year after year (Numbers 120 through 167). Think of a non-hymn which has become close to your heart over the years. Now, consider your life at this present moment. What is it that you need to express to God right now? What is it that fills your heart? What kind of year as 2022 been for you and your family? What has God done in your life? What does God need to do through you for the sake of this world? Allow Mary’s song to guide your thoughts, meditations, and own prayers this Advent and Christmas season.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, I may or may not know music, but let my heart’s song be an honest reflection of who you are and what you are doing in the world. Amen.