

## CHAPTER 2 PRAYER SERVICE

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, you are the faithful giver of all good gifts. As we enter into this time of prayer, enliven our hearts and minds with memories of your faithfulness and goodness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reader:** A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;  
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age  
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,  
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones  
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things;  
the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant,  
remembering his mercy,  
according to his promise to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Reader:** The promises of the Lord I will sing forever;  
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.  
For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”;  
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

**All:** Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Reader:** “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
Forever will I confirm your posterity  
and establish your throne for all generations.”

**All:** Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Reader:** “He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,  
my God, the Rock, my savior.’  
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,  
and my covenant with him stands firm.”

**All:** Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Leader:** At this time, I invite you to mention out loud any good gifts from God you see in your life. You may also thank God for these gifts in the silence of your heart. Our response to each gift will be, “Lord, you are good to us.”

*Give students sufficient time to share, being sure to respond to each gift with, “Lord, you are good to us.”*

**Leader:** Let us thank God for these good gifts together as we pray, Our Father . . .

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.