

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in **God my Savior**, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on **all generations will call me blessed**; for the **Mighty One** has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation**. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. **He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.**"

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel**, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. **He has raised up a mighty savior** for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke **through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old**, that **we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us**. **Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham**, to grant us that we, **being rescued from the hands of our enemies**, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of **the Most High**; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, **to give knowledge of salvation to his people** by the forgiveness of their sins. **By the tender mercy of our God**, the dawn from on high will break upon us, **to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**"

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are **dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word**; for **my eyes have seen your salvation**, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.**"

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon **blessed them** and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the **falling and the rising of many in Israel**, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."