

HYMN OF PRAISE(All Earth Is Hopeful)

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WORD

Psalm 113

- 1 Praise the Lord!
Yes, give praise, O servants of the Lord.
Praise the name of the Lord!
- 2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and forever.
- 3 Everywhere—from east to west—
praise the name of the Lord.
- 4 For the Lord is high above the nations;
his glory is higher than the heavens.
- 5 Who can be compared with the Lord our God,
who is enthroned on high?
- 6 He stoops to look down
on heaven and on earth.
- 7 He lifts the poor from the dust
and the needy from the garbage dump.
- 8 He sets them among princes,
even the princes of his own people!
- 9 He gives the childless woman a family,
making her a happy mother.
Praise the Lord!

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)

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The Holy Gospel according to the 1st Chapter of Luke
Glory to you , O Lord

GOSPEL (Luke 1:26-56)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

- 26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to
Nazareth, a village in Galilee,

- 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!"
- 29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.
- 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!
- 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.
- 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.
- 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"
- 34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."
- 35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.
- 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month.
- 37 For the word of God will never fail."
- 38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.
- 39 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town
- 40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth.
- 41 At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 42 Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed.
- 43 Why am I so honoured, that the mother of my Lord should visit me?
- 44 When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy.
- 45 You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

- 46 Mary responded,
"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.
- 47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!
- 48 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.
- 49 For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.
- 50 He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.
- 51 His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.
- 52 He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.
- 53 He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
- 54 He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.
- 55 For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever."
- 56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home.

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

GOSPEL HYMN (My Soul Proclaims Your....)

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Sermon