

Prayers for Lady Day

When you come to us
with gentle whisper
or mighty wind,
and ask what seems impossible
to human minds,
as you did to Mary,
may our response
not be to hesitate,
make excuses
or run away,
but to echo instead
those trusting
and beautiful words,
“I am the Lord’s servant:
may your word be fulfilled in me”

For Mary’s faithfulness
and her life of service
we thank you, Lord.

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Lord God, you choose the very least
And raise us up to greatness

For nothing is impossible with God

You take the weak, the poor and blind
And raise us out of darkness

For nothing is impossible with God

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

His love endures forever.

Teach us obedience, Lord

In every part of our lives

Ears to hear your word

Hands to do your work

Feet to walk your path

A heart for all your people

A mouth to shout your praise

A childlike faith
Humility
Confidence
That says
To the possible
And the impossible
I am the Lord's servant
May it be to me as you have said.
Amen

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God, who are the Most High Lord of all,
you have a surprising preference
for people who are small and humble
and who expect everything from you.
You chose Mary, the unassuming virgin from Nazareth,
to become the mother of your Son Jesus.
Through your Holy Spirit
make us aware of the poverty of our hearts,
that we may be open to you and welcome you,
be ready, like Mary, to serve you and your plans,
and expect everything from you.
Come to us and give yourself to us
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration

For the faithfulness
of your servant Mary
we give you thanks.
For saints of every age
who, when called,
have simply obeyed –
whether shepherd or scholar,
faced by opposition or praise,
Asked to give
from their riches or poverty –
we give you thanks.

In your eyes all are blessed.
May we count ourselves

among that number,
willing to hear your call.
Our lives dedicated in service
to our Saviour and King.
Amen

Blessed is she who consents to the Word.
Blessed is she who dares.

Blessed is she who hears the Word
Blessed is she who believes.

Blessed is she who kindles the Word
Blessed is she who inspires.

Blessed is she who sets free the Word.
Blessed is she who empowers.

Blessed is she who enfleshes the Word.
Blessed is she who embodies God.
Amen

Nicola Slee, The Book of Mary, 2007, SPCK

O Lord Jesus Christ
give us, we pray, the graces of Mary;
faith, patience, ready obedience,
thankfulness and courage.
As Mary said 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour'
so give us the gift of thankfulness and joy.
As Mary 'kept all these sayings in her heart'
so may we be faithful in hearing and reflecting on your Word.
As Mary said 'Do whatever he tells you'
grant us readiness to do the work to which we are called.
As Mary stood by the cross
grant that we may never be ashamed to confess you
as our crucified and risen Saviour.
Amen

Collect for Lady Day

We beseech you, O Lord,
pour your grace into our hearts,
that as we have known the incarnation of your Son
Jesus Christ by the message of an angel,
so by his cross and passion
we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

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