

## 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

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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

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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

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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**

The Mothers' Union Worship Book

**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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