

# Mary in Luke



# Mary Immaculate

words: Noel S Donnelly

French Christmas Carol

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12

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1. Mary so lowly yet called "highly favoured"  
God's humble servant, yet left to decide,  
Called to give all, and unsure of the way, but  
Trusting in God, saying "Thy will be done!"
2. Mother of mercy and tender compassion  
Mother of Jesus, the source of all love,  
Praised by your cousin, and blessed for believing,  
"Blessed among women, and Mother of God!"
3. Greeted by shepherds, at peace with the lowly,  
Honoured by Magi, at peace with the great,  
Mary, your heart is so full of God's wonders!  
"Glory to God in the highest, and peace!"

4. Lovingly giving your son in the Temple,  
God fills your life though your offerings are poor,  
Pierced by a sword as a sign of division....  
Simeon's prophecy will be fulfilled.
5. When the child Jesus was lost in the Temple  
Mary and Joseph with sorrow returned,  
Cross and confused at "the things of my Father"  
Pondering deep in the heart for God's way.
6. First of disciples (and praised in his preaching),  
Hearing and keeping God's word in your life  
Till at the foot of the Cross Jesus calls you  
Breathing forgiveness as lesson for all.
7. Mother at Pentecost, calling the Spirit,  
One with the women in prayer with the men,  
Birthing with God in the newest creation  
Loving the church into life for all time.
8. Mother of mothers who join in God's mission,  
Model of church, bringing life to the world,  
Strong in obedience to faith and to service,  
Strengthened by Jesus the source of all love!

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Hymns are an invaluable part of our prayer language, and those which focus on Mary, the Mother of God, have a special place. Noel Donnelly's new hymn follows the church's most traditional approach to hymnody – it is securely based on scripture and will surely win an honoured place in our devotional and parish repertoire..

The tune is taken from that used for the hymn 'Mary Immaculate, Star of the Morning' (which was written by F.W. Wetherell, a minister of the Church of Ireland 1829 – 1903). It originated in Germany as Liebster Immanuel, a melody from the Himmels-Lust of 1679, adapted and set by J.S. Bach. Graphic © Netta Ewing.