



**Praise for our Salvation and Eternity Here and Now
With some thoughts from Ellen**

Mary's Song of Praise

*"With all my heart
I praise the Lord,
And I am glad
Because of God my Savior...
He helps his servant Israel
And is always merciful to his people..." Luke 1:47, 54*

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we especially remember your sacrifice for your people as we prepare our hearts this week to remember your sacrifice for the world. As Mary praised you upon the revelation of your salvation of the world, who would be born to her, your servant, she praised you in a song of praise. Father, we cry out to you in a song of praise as well. We praise you for You are our Light and our Salvation. (Psalm 27:1) May we never lose the joy of our salvation and always remember to give you praise for the great things You have done.

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess His name." Hebrews 13:5

We proclaim:

You are "the resurrection and the life..." John 11:25

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." Matthew 28:6

It is with great thanksgiving that we continue to praise You in all circumstances. "We give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 Help us to emulate Christ by praising Him and being thankful even when circumstances are not pleasant. Christ, you took on the greatest hardship of all, death on a cross. The difficulties we face here on earth are miniscule compared to what you endured. Forgive us for grumbling at our challenges and welcome them because we look forward to a greater glory far greater than anything we can experience here on earth. We have You, Christ Jesus, to thank, and so now we will faithfully endure.

Lord, we look forward to a hope and a future, which you have planned in advance for us. You promise to give good gifts to your children, so while we wait upon You, we wait with anticipation for those gifts with grateful hearts. Thank you, Lord Jesus for already granting us eternity here on earth. It began with our salvation and will continue into eternity. So help us to look to what we do have and what we are promised for all eternity.

As we prepare to enter into the land you have already prepared in advance for us, we will continue to bring you praise. It is to You we give all honor and praise.

Some thoughts for Prayer and Praise from Ellen

“Ask and it shall be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

I was reminded that we must stay above grumbling as well. I think of how much grumbling cost the Israelites as they wandered through the desert. Over and over they quit trusting and took matters into their own hands. They would forget God’s miraculous deeds and look back to Egypt. Their grumbling delayed the journey and took the very life of many.

Instead, we must choose joy and gratitude. We can do this by keeping our eyes on the Lord and His promises and not on circumstance or on others. Circumstances are often discouraging but it’s the Lord who gets us through them. It’s tempting to focus on each other, especially during difficult times, and as a result grow angry and disappointed. But this is a snare of the enemy –to sow discord among us. Not one of us is perfect, nor will we always make perfect decisions. Thankfully, God does not need perfect people- only faithful ones. We must keep our eyes on our perfect God who will perfectly lead us.

Join me in fervently and faithfully praying for (1) financial provision not only to complete our academic buildings/gym/sports fields– but soon so that the process will, from this point on, not be held back by finances; (2) financial provision so that our families can have some reprieve - that all who are called to come can afford to enroll and remain; (3) that our land will become income producing and a blessing to others to such a degree that we become sustainable for families.

Finally let’s hold each other up in prayer, especially our those who lead the way. Some of you have worked long and hard for years. Without your efforts, we would not be where we are. I am very grateful.

Be blessed in Him,
Ellen