The Magnificat is a canticle, also known as the Song of Mary, in the Bible. It is found in the Gospel of Luke (1:46–55) and is sung by Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Magnificat is often referred to as Mary’s Hymn of Praise. It is a celebration of the Lord’s goodness and mercy, particularly in demonstrating God’s preferential love for the poor.

Here is the English translation of the Magnificat:

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts; has put down the powerful from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, but he has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy of old; how he promised to Abraham our father and to his descendants forever. And Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months, and then returned home. When she returned, her cousin Elizabeth greeted her, and she exclaimed:

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb! And why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, as soon as the voice of your greeting entered mine ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

The Magnificat is a traditional prayer that is used in Catholic, Anglican, and some Orthodox churches. It is also known as the Canticle of Mary. The Magnificat is often recited or sung during the evening prayer, as it is considered to be a beautiful expression of faith and gratitude. It is also sung during the Christmas season, particularly on Christmas Eve.

The Magnificat has been set to music by many composers, including Johann Sebastian Bach, who composed a Magnificat in D major (BWV 243) in 1723. The Magnificat by Bach is a well-known choral work that is performed during the Christmas season and is also frequently sung during Catholic Masses on various feast days.