

FIVE HYMNS sung by the early church
Recorded in the Gospel of Luke

THE MAGNIFICAT (Luke 1:46b-55)

These are the words of Mary – her song of praise – after the angel Gabriel speaks to her. “My soul magnifies the Lord!”

THE BENEDICTUS (Luke 1:68-80).

This is the song of Zacharias – a song of praise – a response to the birth of the son whom the angel had told him should be named John. “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people Israel.”

THE NUNC DIMMITTIS (Luke 2:29-32).

This is Simeon’s Praise when he sees the infant Christ (Messiah). “Lord, noww lettest thou thy servant depart in peace. . .for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.”

AVE MARIA (Luke 1:28, 42).

This is the angel Gabriel’s word to Mary. “Hail, favored one, the Lord is with you.”

GLORIA IN ELCELSIS (Luke 2:14).

This is the angels’ song. “Glory to God in the highest!”

And, WE respond:

My soul magnifies the Lord!

Blessed be the Lord, for he has visited us!

My eyes, too, have seen thy salvation!

The Lord is with us all!

Glory! Glory! Be to God in the highest—

For the day shall dawn upon us

From on high,

To give light to us who sit sometimes

In darkness,

And to guide our feet into the way of peace!
Amen, Amen!

The Advent and Christmas observance does not have to be shallow. The focus is on God's Gift – not on me or you. May 2007 be the most blessed for you and yours.

Until next time,

Straight Ahead for Jesus!

Hugh L. Smith