

One month later God sent the angel **Gabriel** to the town of **Nazareth** in **Galilee** with a message for a virgin named **Mary**. She was engaged to **Joseph** from the family of King **David**. The angel greeted **Mary** and said, 'You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you.'

Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant.

Then the angel told **Mary**, 'Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be **Jesus**. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor **David** was. He will rule the people of Israel for ever, and his kingdom will never end.'

Mary asked the angel, 'How can this happen? I am not married!'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Your relative **Elizabeth** is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. Nothing is impossible for God!'

Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said.' And the angel left her.

A short time later **Mary** hurried to a town in the hill country of **Judea**. She went into **Zechariah**'s home, where she greeted **Elizabeth**. When **Elizabeth** heard **Mary**'s greeting, her baby moved within her.

The Holy Spirit came upon **Elizabeth**. Then in a loud voice she said to **Mary**:

God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have. Why should the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, my baby became happy and moved within me. The Lord has blessed you because you believed that he will keep his promise.

Mary said:

With all my heart

I praise the Lord,