**CREATE A CANTICLE**

A canticle is a hymn or chant in praise of God or God’s deeds. The most famous for Catholics is Mary’s Magnificat, found in Luke 1:46-55. Image Mary’s praise as she learns she is to give birth to the Son of God.

Think of a time you heard good news: An A on a test; a driver’s license; a job. Read Mary’s Canticle, then create one of your own.

**The Canticle of Mary**

And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
    my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness;
    behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me,
    and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
   to those who fear him.
He has shown might with his arm,
    dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones
    but lifted up the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things;
    the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped Israel his servant,
    remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers,
    to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Below is Zechariah’s canticle, Luke 1:67-79. He and Elizabeth were very old when they had their son, John. Zechariah sang this hymn of praise knowing that his son would be a great prophet.

**The Canticle of Zechariah.**

Then Zechariah his father, filled with the holy Spirit, prophesied, saying:

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
    for he has visited and brought redemption to his people.
He has raised up a horn for our salvation
    within the house of David his servant,
even as he promised through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old:
    salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our fathers
    and to be mindful of his holy covenant
and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father,
    and to grant us that, rescued from the hand of enemies,
without fear we might worship him in holiness and righteousness
    before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High,
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
    through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God
    by which the daybreak from on high will visit us
to shine on those who sit in darkness and death’s shadow,
    to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

