



A Reflection on the Prayer 'Hail Mary'

In Marian hymns and prayers we find two movements:
1st "magnifies" the Lord for His "great deeds" (Lk 1, 46-55)
2nd entrusts our prayers and praises to the Mother of Jesus

This twofold movement of prayer to Mary has found a privileged expression in the *Ave Maria*. (CCC 2676)

Hail Mary has *Two parts*

1st part from Luke – glorifying God;

2nd part – from 16th century after Council of Trent – sanctify man

Hail Mary [or *Rejoice, Mary*]: who spoke these words? Angel Gabriel (Lk 1,48) actually it **God, the Father**, Himself who, through his angel, greets Mary. We use God's own words.. and share in the joy of God over Mary (Zeph 3,14-20)

Full of grace, the Lord is with thee: Mary is full of grace because the Lord is with her. "Rejoice, O Daughter of Jerusalem.. the Lord your God is in your midst." (Zeph 3, 14.17b) The Lord will soon be **in Her. *Mary is God's dwelling place!***

Mary, in whom the Lord himself has just made his dwelling, is the daughter of Zion in person, the ark of the covenant, the place where the glory of the Lord dwells. She is "the dwelling of God . . . with men." (Rev 21, 3) Full of grace, Mary is wholly given over to him who has come to dwell in her and whom she is about to give to the world. (CCC 2676)

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Who spoke these words? Elizabeth (Lk 1,42) She is the first in the long succession of generations who have called Mary "blessed." (Lk 1, 41.48) actually, these words are of the **Holy Spirit** - "Filled with the Holy Spirit,"

Why is she blessed? (Lk 1,45) because she believed that the promises made to her would be fulfilled.. and like Abraham becomes a blessing for all the nations of the earth. (Gen 12,3)

Blessed is the womb that bore you.. rather those who listen to God's word and live by it. (Lk)
She had born Jesus in the heart before bearing him in womb



Mary, because of her faith, became the mother of believers, through whom all nations of the earth receive him who is God's own blessing: Jesus, the "fruit of thy womb." (CCC 2676)

Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Mary leads us always to Jesus, the centre and the hinge connecting the two parts of Hail Mary

"It is to Jesus the act of love to Mary is ultimately directed; Jesus is the centre of our heart as he was the centre of Mary." (St John Paul II)

***In the first part of the Hail Mary,
we are glorifying the Trinity
in Mary with Mary Through Mary!***

Holy Mary, Mother of God: With Elizabeth we marvel, "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

(Lk 1,43 = 2 Sam 6,29.16

2 Mac 2, 7 = Rev 11,19-12,1))

Because she gives us Jesus, her son, Mary is Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her: she prays for us as she prayed for herself: "Let it be to me according to your word." (Lk 1,38) By entrusting ourselves to her prayer, we abandon ourselves to the will of God together with her: "Thy will be done." (CCC 2677)

Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death: By asking Mary to pray for us, and acknowledging ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to the "Mother of Mercy," the All-Holy One.

We entrust ourselves over to her now, in the Today of our lives. And our trust broadens further, already at the present moment, to surrender "the hour of our death" wholly to her care.

Like the beloved disciple

we welcome Jesus' mother into our homes, (Jn 19,27)
for she has become the mother of all the living. (CCC 2679)

Do not be afraid to take Mary (Mt 1, 20)

***In the second part of the Hail Mary,
we entrust our whole life to Mary
that she may help us attain sanctity like her!*** (2682)

Dear Mother Mary, Ever Virgin, help me to save my soul.

Dear Mother Mary, Ever Virgin, help me to save souls.

