

Candles of the Advent Wreath

HOPE
1st Sunday

PEACE
2nd Sunday

**CHRIST
CANDLE**
Christmas Day

JOY
3rd Sunday

LOVE
4th
Sunday

evergreen leaves, which "represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ".



Mary's Song

Luke 1:46-55



Luke 1:46–50 (NIV)

46 And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me
blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for
me—

holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.



Luke 1:51–56 (NIV)

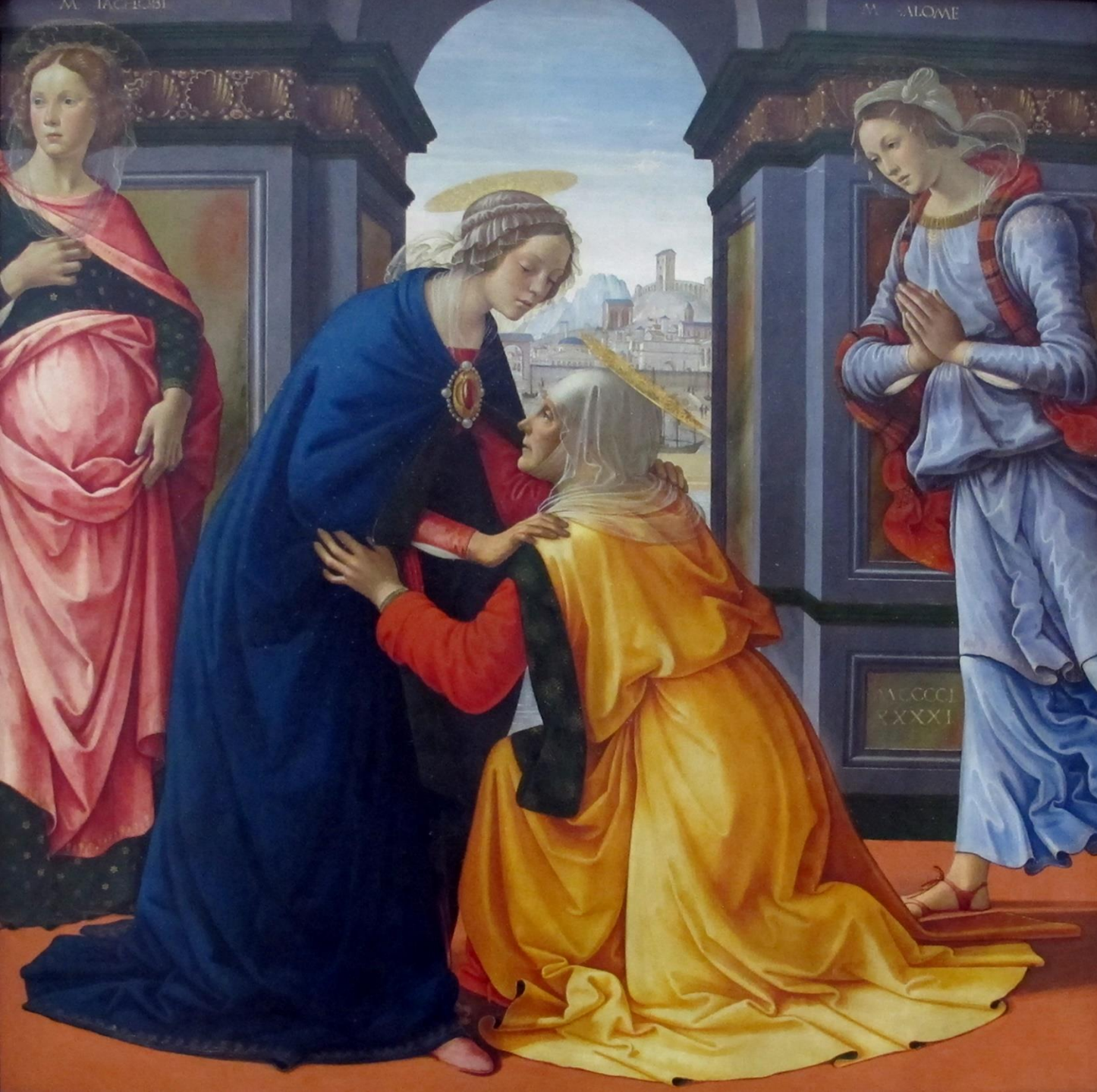
51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their
inmost thoughts.

52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his
descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”





Mary's Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55



Visitation, by Domenico Ghirlandaio (1491), depicts Mary visiting her elderly cousin Elizabeth.

Biblical References on Mary

- The wife of Joseph, the mother of Jesus (Matt. 2:11; Acts 1:14)
- Little is known of her personal history
- Her genealogy is given in Luke 3. She was of the tribe of Judah and the lineage of David (Ps. 132:11; Luke 1:32)



Biblical References on Mary

- She was connected by marriage with Elisabeth, who was of the lineage of Aaron (Luke 1:36)
- While she resided at Nazareth with her parents, before she became the wife of Joseph, the angel Gabriel announced to her that she was to be the mother of the promised Messiah (Luke 1:35)
- She was a virgin when she conceived (Luke 1:34)



Social Implications for Mary

- Joseph may break their betrothal
- She will be the centre of gossip and humiliation in her family and her community. The Eastern culture is the culture of shame
- She will be unmarriageable



Biblical References on Mary

- After this she went to visit her cousin Elisabeth, who was living with her husband Zachariah
- Immediately on entering the house she was saluted by Elisabeth as the mother of her Lord, and then forthwith gave utterance to her hymn of thanksgiving (Luke 1:46–56; 1 Sam. 2:1–10)





Mary's Song

1. Rejoices

2. Glorifies

3. Looks forward

4. Exalts



1. Rejoices

Luke 1:46–48 (NIV)

46 And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,



Luke 1:46-55

Mary **rejoices** that she has the privilege of giving birth to the promised Messiah (Luke 1:46–48)



The Annunciation



the announcement of the Incarnation by the angel Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26–38)

God's Redemption Plan

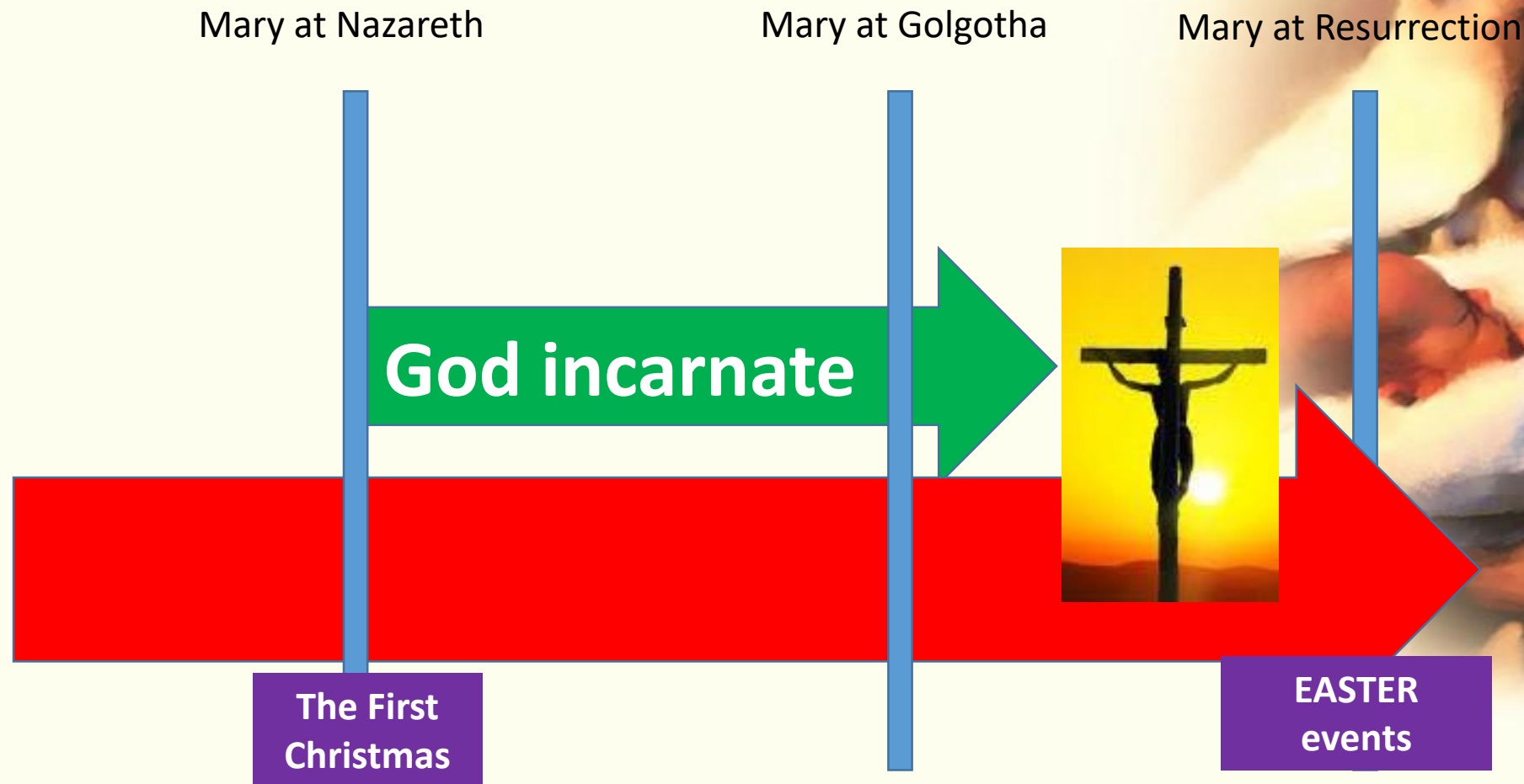
Mary at Nazareth

Mary at Golgotha

God incarnate



God's Redemption Plan



2. Glorifies

Luke 1:49–50 (NIV)

for the Mighty One has done great
things for me—
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.



Luke 1:46-55

Mary **glorifies** God for His power, holiness, and mercy (Luke 1:49–50)



3. Looks forward

Luke 1:51–53 (NIV)

51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their
inmost thoughts.

52 He has brought down rulers from their
thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.



Luke 1:46-55

Mary **looks forward** to God transforming the world through the Messiah. The proud will be brought low, and the humble will be lifted up; the hungry will be fed, and the rich will go without (Luke 1:51–53)



4. Exalts

Luke 1:54–55 (NIV)

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”



Luke 1:46-55

Mary **exalts God** because He has been faithful to His promise to Abraham (Luke 1:54–55; see God's promise to Abraham in Gen 12:1-3)



Luke 1:46-55

1. Mary **rejoices** that she has the privilege of giving birth to the promised Messiah (Luke 1:46–48).
2. She **glorifies** God for His power, holiness, and mercy (Luke 1:49–50).
3. Mary **looks forward** to God transforming the world through the Messiah. The proud will be brought low, and the humble will be lifted up; the hungry will be fed, and the rich will go without (Luke 1:51–53).
4. Mary **exalts God** because He has been faithful to His promise to Abraham (Luke 1:54–55; see God's promise to Abraham in Gen 12:1-3)





Mary's Song

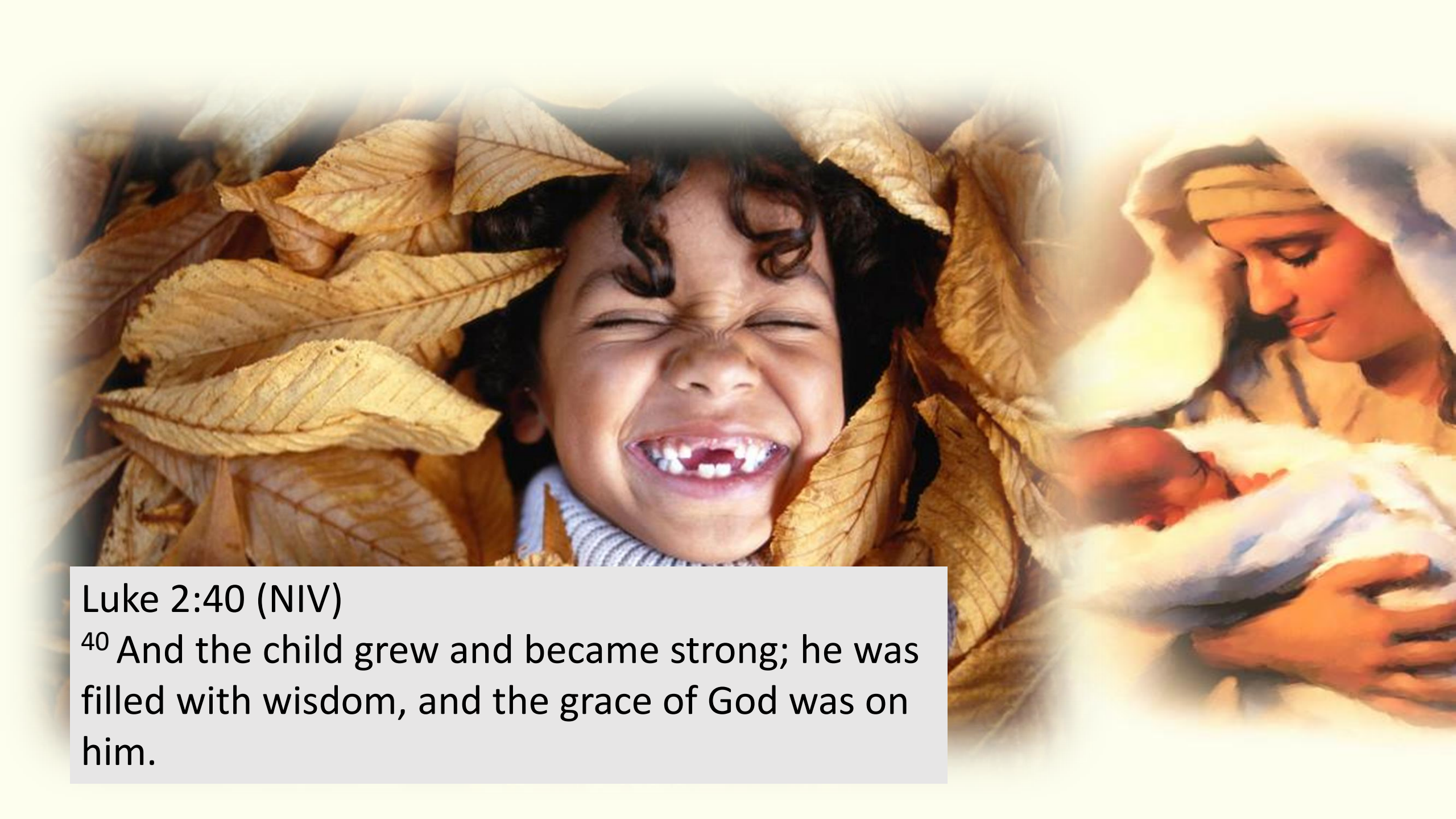
Rejoices

Glorifies

Looks forward

Exalts





Luke 2:40 (NIV)

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.



Mary, Jesus' Mother

Luke 2:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.





A glowing golden Christmas tree is the central focus, composed of many small, bright particles that create a shimmering, ethereal effect. The tree is set against a dark blue background filled with numerous out-of-focus light spots, or bokeh, in shades of blue and gold. The overall atmosphere is festive and magical.

Rejoices

Glorifies

Looks forward

Exalts

"Joy to the World" is an English Christmas carol. The carol was written in **1719** by the English minister and hymnwriter **Isaac Watts**, and its lyrics are an interpretation of **Psalm 98** celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Today, the carol is usually sung to an 1848 arrangement by the American composer Lowell Mason.

