OVERTURE THEMES:

- a. Women
- b. the Weak, Poor, Marginalized (all who need God's saving grace) c. the Spirit
- d. Light
- e. God's fulfillment of promises and prophecies
- f. God's rescuing strength & judgment

Mary's Song of Praise – Luke 1:46-55

- 46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; 50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
- 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- 54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel in remembrance of his mercy,
 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Zechariah's Song of Praise – Luke 1:67-79

- **67** Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
- **68** "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
- 69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, 70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, 71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
- 72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, 73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us 74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

Zechariah's Song of Praise - Luke 1:67-79 (continued)

- 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
- 78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, 79 to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Hannah's Song of Praise – 1 Samuel 2:1-10

- 1 Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies because I rejoice in your victory.
- 2 There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.
- 3 Talk no more so very proudly; let not arrogance come from your mouth, for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.
- 4 The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.
- **5** Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.
- 6 The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- 7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low; he also exalts.
- 8 He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world.
- 9 He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked will perish in darkness, for not by might does one prevail.
- 10 The Lord! His adversaries will be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed."

Simeon's Song of Praise – Luke 2:29-32

29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

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