

The Hail Mary

Words of the
Angel Gabriel
Luke 1:28

Hail (Mary), full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Some
manuscripts
attribute the
underlined
words to the
Angel Gabriel
as well

Words of Mary's
kinswoman,
Elizabeth
Luke 1:42

Blessed art thou among
women and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb (Jesus)

The parentheses
enclose the names
of persons being
addressed in
Scripture

A supplication,
added, mostly in
the 15th Century

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now and at
the hour of our death. Amen.

The Hail Mary reaches back across the centuries to the beginning of salvation history, and forward to the most important hour of our life, the hour of our death—the hour that determines whether we are saved.

In Latin Hail Mary is Ave Maria. The "Ave" addressed to Mary, is the reverse of the Latin for Eve, "Eva." Mary was instrumental in reversing—in the most important respects—what Eve was instrumental in undoing. She will help make it possible for man to regain sanctifying grace, the supernatural life lost by Adam and Eve. With this grace human beings can also regain heaven. What began in Paradise with the fruit being taken from the tree, will be reversed by the fruit of Mary's womb going up on the tree—the tree of the Cross. The bitterness of man's fall will be replaced by the sweetness of salvation.