

**Question:** “Jesus taught ‘the Lord’s Prayer’. Who composed the ‘Hail Mary’?”

**Answer:** The Hail Mary (**Latin:** Ave Maria) is a traditional Catholic prayer asking for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. For Catholics, the prayer forms the basis of the Rosary and the Angelus prayers. The Hail Mary is composed of three parts. The first two parts are from the New Testament written by Saint Luke. These three parts together form the Hail Mary Prayer.

“**Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee**” (Luke 1:28), are the greetings of the Angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation.

“**Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb**” (Luke 1:42), are the greetings of Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, who was soon to become the mother of St. John the Baptist. These words were spoken at the Visitation. Taken together, these two passages are the two times Mary is greeted in Chapter 1 of Luke.

The words “Mary” and “Jesus” along with “**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**” were added by the Church.

So, the answer to “Who composed the Hail Mary” is the Holy Spirit (through the Holy Spirit’s inspiration by way of human writers who wrote it into Holy Scripture, **AND** also through the Church, which is also composed of human beings who are guided by the light of Christ who is the Head of the Church, the Body of Christ.