

Fourth Sunday of Advent

J H B T N A F N I F
 Y U T E G Z U Q R R
 R F D E L D Y S T U
 N U E A B I R N Z I
 M D D U H A E E T T
 V M E C E M Z V K Y
 B Z L C O Z B I E B
 B W L M Y L O H L D
 H A I R A H C E Z E
 Z J F O S M S D C Z
 X J L O W S E J O Y
 Q X U U E L S B U A
 M N F D E T O Z N D
 D V X V E I Z H T T
 B D A I K R E Q R H
 G R E E T I N G Y D
 T Q K P O P B X Q R
 Y Q A V A S B M G O
 F E N P G E D M O L
 S P O K E N L L S W

BELIEVED
 BLESSED
 COUNTRY
 EARS
 ELIZABETH
 FRUIT
 FULFILLED
 GREETING

HOLY
 INFANT
 JOY
 JUDAH
 LEAPED
 LORD
 MOMENT
 SOUND

SPIRIT
 SPOKEN
 TRAVELED
 WOMB
 ZECHARIAH

Catechizing Corner!

Finally, there is the commission, the call and mission of the individual in question. When Elizabeth said, "... blessed is the fruit of your womb. Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" she prophesied about the mission of the child in Mary's womb. This child will bring salvation. He will be the fulfillment of God's plan. Luke wants to make it clear that both John and Jesus have unique roles to play. John will prepare the way. John will be the bridge between the old covenant and the new covenant. John will help prepare hearts for giving birth to the advent of the messiah. Jesus, however, is that messiah. Jesus is the One who will fulfill Israel's hopes. Luke insists that his community have no illusions about "who's who" in the eschatological events about to take place.

Mary and Elizabeth, two great women of scripture, listen to God and become the ultimate paradigm of a disciple. In this scripture text, Mary becomes the great gift and model for the church. She listens, she responds, she obeys with fervor and zeal the voice of God and she acts on that word. We, too, on this last Sunday of Advent are exhorted to "go in haste," to go with zeal and fervor to live the call of the gospel and to share the mighty news it contains. Mary models for us the perfect liturgy. She listens, she gives thanks and praise, she responds in faith to the Word of God and then she goes in haste. Our response will be evidenced by how we live the law of love, how we respond to the needy in our world.

Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship



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Disciple's Reflection for the Question of the Week

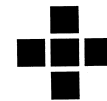
Fourth Sunday of Advent
 12/22/2024

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God
 Luke 1:39-45

Faith Sharing
 Questions of the week

Closing Prayer



H O L Y F A M I L Y
 C H U R C H

Call to Prayer

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment, and listen attentively to this week's passage.

The Word of God Luke 1:39-45

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said,

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

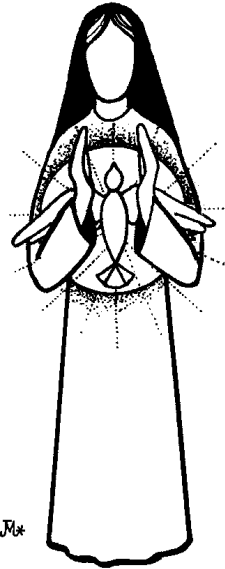
Gospel Glossary

The **fruit of the womb** is an old way of speaking about a baby that is still growing inside of its mother's womb.

And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord



By the Lord would be fulfilled means that God keeps his promises.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Choose one

- How can I believe more deeply in God's power to achieve what seems impossible?
- Can you describe a time when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit?
- When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?
- Tell about a time when you felt great joy.
- What does having trust in God mean to you?

Closing Prayer

Lord, fill our hearts with your love, and as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your Son as man, so lead us through his suffering and death to the glory of his resurrection, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT