

for REFLECTION

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy *Lectio Divina* for the Fourth Week of Advent

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God,
as we see how the Nativity of your Son
according to the flesh draws near,
we pray that to us, your unworthy servants,
mercy may flow from your Word,
who chose to become flesh of the Virgin
Mary
and establish among us his dwelling,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

(Collect, December 23)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Luke 1:39-45

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. 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.”

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection:

How does this passage connect with the experience of your daily life?

And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? How can I bring the Lord to the people I encounter? How do I encounter Christ in the people I meet?

The infant in my womb leaped for joy. What about your faith brings you joy? How do share your joy with others?

Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled. How do I hear the voice of the Lord in my life? How has God blessed me this week? How can I be a blessing to those I meet?

Prayer (Oratio)

Read the scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

After all have had a chance to make their prayer:

Closing Prayer:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me
blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for
me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their
conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their
thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant
Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.”

(The Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55)