

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (v52)

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, & come. With your abundant grace & might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy & serve you always, for you live & reign with the Father & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 1:39-45

³⁹In those days Mary set out & went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah & greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Review *1:1-38 & Luke 3:21-38*. Use your Bible's study note to figure out who these people are in Jesus' family. What stands out to you (other than the length of the genealogy)? What does it tell us that we know some of these people only by their name?
See Psalm 139:13-14; Luke 12:7
2. First the Holy Spirit was promised to John (*1:15*), now his mother Elizabeth is filled, too; how does this affect their witness? *See Matthew 16:17, Luke 2:26, 1 Corinthians 12:13*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Look at the artwork referenced on Wikipedia about this Bible episode. What do you notice about each one? Which ones have the richest symbolism? Which ones are the clearest and most straight forward? Which ones seem the most "realistic" in their scene? How do these different visual interpretations help you better understand the story?
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visitation_\(Christianity\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visitation_(Christianity)) Feel free to search "Feast of the Visitation Artwork" to find more illustrations of this account.
4. Tell of at least 3 times when you were grateful that a family member came bringing the gospel of new life & salvation into your everyday life (*see v43*). Be specific; find the Bible stories they referenced.

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. In *Luke 1:51-53*, Mary makes some bold claims; how do you think our neighbors experience these statements? (*See Psalms 145:14-16, 146:7-9, 147:8-9; Matthew 5:44-48, esp. v45*)
6. Who among your family needs to reconnect with the gift of faith and be encouraged with the promises of Holy Baptism? How can the seasons of Advent & Christmas, with their rich stories & symbolism, give you an opportunity to speak to them while the Holy Spirit opens their mind to the Scriptures (*cf. Luke 24:45*) & you proclaim the Gospel (*cf. Acts 8:26-39*). Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the names of at least 3 of these people & to give you simple opportunities. *See Luke 12:8-12, 1 Peter 3:15*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

12.15.24

Series: Proclamation

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

How do I talk to people about Jesus?

Our Families

Encouraging the promises we have in common across the generations

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (*v41*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Here I am, the servant of the Lord;

let it be with me according to your word. (*Luke 1:38*)

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