

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mother Mary,
pray for us,
that we might be inspired by
the way you received your life
and God's.

Draw us close to your Son,
that we might trust Him with
our lives,
as He learned to trust His
Father by His trust in you.

In your name, we pray your
prayer:

Hail Mary...

Amen.

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Fourth Sunday of Advent



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Gospel Reading

From the Gospel of Luke 1: 39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Reflection

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth. The Gospel recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat.

Mary was courageous to what God asked of her and said Yes. We, too, are called to say Yes to where God calls us in life.

- Is there something in life that you need the courage to say yes to?
- How have you actively followed your faith this Advent?
- What steps can you continue to take that will help you in the New Year?

Jesse Tree Symbols

Story: Joseph the Carpenter
(Mt 1:18-25)

Symbol: Hammer and Saw
'...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.' (Mt 1:20)

Story: Mary the Mother of Jesus
(Lk 1: 26-38)

Symbol: Rose
'The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.' (Lk 1:30-31)

Story: John the Baptist (Lk 1: 57-80)

Symbol: Writing Tablet
'He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.'" (Lk 1:63)

Story: Jesus the Messiah
(Mt 1:25; 2:9-11)

Symbol: Star
'... they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.' (Mt 2:9-10)