



Dec. 23, 2018 Luke 1: 39-55 & Micah 5: 1-4

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#### ENTERING THE SCENE:

In this last Sunday of Advent we encounter two women whose lives are radically changed by new life. One, an old woman freed from the shame and angst of barrenness, the other very young and unmarried: each woman helping the other to make sense of their experience. Each entering into whatever God had in store for them. The two unborn babies both promised by angels will go on to become the fulfillment of ancient promises. Elizabeth and Mary set examples for all of us who once again plunge deeper into the mystery of the Incarnation.

#### Luke 1:39—55

39 At that time **Mary got ready and hurried** to a town in the **hill country** of Judea, 40 where she entered **Zechariah's** home and greeted **Elizabeth**. 41 When **Elizabeth** heard **Mary's** greeting, the baby **leaped** in her womb, and **Elizabeth** was **filled** with the **Holy Spirit**. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "**Blessed** are you among **women**, and **blessed** is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my **Lord** should come to me? 44 As

soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb **leaped** for joy. 45 **Blessed** is she who has **believed** that what the **Lord** has said to her will be accomplished!"

*(Revised Common Lectionary adds these verses)*

46 And **Mary** said: "My soul glorifies the **Lord** 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been **mindful** of the **humble** state of his **servant**. From now on all **generations** will call me **blessed**, 49 for the **Mighty One** has done **great things** for me-- holy is his name. 50 His **mercy** extends to those who fear him, from **generation** to **generation**. 51 He has performed **mighty deeds** with his arm; he has scattered those who are **proud** in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down **rulers** from their thrones but has lifted up the **humble**. 53 He has **filled** the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away **empty**. 54 He has **helped** his servant Israel, remembering to be **merciful** 55 to **Abraham** and his descendants forever, even as he said to our **fathers**"

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** In the Incarnation we too can proclaim that "the Mighty One has done great things for me –holy is his name". How do I live this proclamation?

**PRAYER:** Blessed women, your lived experience of welcoming angels and saying yes to God in your own special way, challenge me to reflect on how I too welcome angels and say yes to God. You most certainly were ready when your invitations came. I have attempted to deepen my readiness this Advent. Help me to trust that I too will be blessed because of my readiness. Amen.