

IN EXCELSIS DEO

ADVENT 2024

Sunday, December 22

Read: Luke 1:39-45

Mary learns from the angel that she will give birth to the Son of God and decides to travel to see Elizabeth, the one person who might understand what she is dealing with. Elizabeth is also miraculously pregnant. When Elizabeth saw young Mary, her son John immediately leaped in her womb. She was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out, *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”* Elizabeth not only prophesies, but blesses. Mary was seeking someone to accept her and love her.

When God created Adam and Eve, he immediately blessed them. God created us to bless us. To love us. He wanted a relationship with us built on love and filled with grace and mercy. With everything going on in our world, we sometimes forget that we are blessed by God. Jesus was born into this broken world to remind us of God’s desire to bless us. As he was born to bless us, he also died to bless us. His whole mission was to bless the world, and it is our purpose and mission to continue his work and bless others. When Elizabeth welcomed Mary, she practiced the same kind of inclusive love that Jesus showed and that we should also show others. In this we see that Elizabeth’s blessing, for herself, for Mary, and for anyone who hears God’s promise and believes it, will be blessed. Just open the door, offer a blessing and let God do the rest.

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