

HOPING

**Our hearts are made for you, O God and we shall not rest
until we find our home in you. (St Augustine)**

*We have turned to the text and then to life. Awakened by the Word
we turn again towards the Lord*

1. What do you want to say to the Lord about what you have heard?
2. What hope or prayer has this text stirred in your heart?
3. What word about your life - be it a word of thanksgiving, sorrow, joy, peace, petition - do you now bring to the Lord?

Closing Prayer:

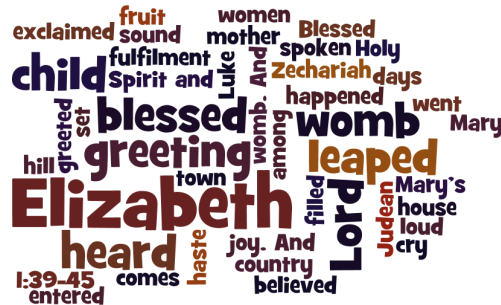
We gather our prayers together as we say :

Hail Mary, full of grace.,

The Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your
womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray
for us sinners, now and at the
hour of our death. Amen.



***Our deepest prayer is one that rises from the heart
in response to the realities of life.
(Michael Casey, OCSO, adapted.)***

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Hearing Happening Hoping

**Journey with God's Word
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:39-45**



The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. We begin by

praying: God our Father, source of all light, you have sent your Son into the world, to reveal yourself to all your children. Send your Spirit upon us now, that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to know him, may we come to love him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of your Kingdom. Amen.

Luke 1:39-45

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



HEARING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening!

You have the words of eternal life!

*We read the passage 2-3 times. Reflect and share on **some** of the following:*

1. Luke has filled this passage with sound and movement. What sounds do you notice in this passage? What movements are important?
2. What causes the child in Elizabeth's womb to leap for joy?
3. How does Elizabeth react to Mary's visit?
4. According to Luke, what are the sources of blessings for these women?

HAPPENING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening!

In the Light of the Word we look at our lives

*We read the passage again and reflect on **some** of the following:*

1. "When I heard the sound of your greeting..." What sounds from the world do we hear? What affect do they have on us?
2. "...the child in my womb leaped for joy." Where have you felt unexpected and surprising joy?
3. "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting..."
God is working in the lives of these two women, Elizabeth and Mary. How is God working through the important women in our lives?



"The coming of God in Christ still continues today..." Maria Boudling