

HOPING ~ Our deepest prayer is one that rises from the heart in response to the realities of life. (Michael Casey)



Awakened by the Word we turn now towards the Lord. One of the following may help you begin: our prayer flows—in thanksgiving, or seeking or asking or hoping:

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?



*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*



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Further HHH resources on the Maynooth College Mission Portal at www.maynoothcollege.ie/hearing-happening-hoping

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HEARING · HAPPENING · HOPING

A Journey with God's Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39–45



Like all true prophets, when Elizabeth speaks, the word is both hers and God's. Her words of blessing come from the heart of God; God's blessing, the fullness of the Holy Spirit at work in her voice. (after Fran Fender)

The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. (André Louf)
We seek to hear God's Word, so we ask for God's Spirit:

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?

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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?

*“As you listen, you recognise your own story. You listen from the inside;
you have the key.” Maria Boulding OSB*