

Living into Advent

Living in Community

Luke 1:39-45

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Introduction: Advent is a sacred season. We step into this time that is rich with meaning and spiritual depth. Advent, derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” This season invites us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. It is a season of hope, preparation, praise, wonder, and waiting. In essence, advent is a way of life. Living into Advent means embracing *kairos* moments as the light of Jesus Christ enters our dark world. Living into Advent means living with eyes wide open and being aware of God’s movement in the world and in our lives. It means being spiritually alert to divine opportunities to love and serve others. It means to bring justice and mercy, and to be agents of God’s peace. It means looking beyond our current struggles to ultimate fulfillment of God’s kingdom.

Review: What did you learn about God’s favor from Aaron’s sermon last Sunday?

Read: Luke 1:39-45

Prayer: Father, thank you for this joyful text and the working of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Discussion:

1. Why did Mary hurry to see Elizabeth? Is this an example of community between these two women?
2. What happened when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting? Why are both important? How are they different?
3. Distinguish Elizabeth’s strong (loud voice!) exclamation of blessing for Mary from her humble question/statement for herself. Does this strengthen the connection between the two women?
4. What does the blessing of verse 45 depend upon? Does Mary believe? See Mary’s song, particularly verses 46-49.

Application: Let the joy of this text be in your heart this first week of Advent.

Prayer: Father, thank you for the reminder of the strong relationship between Elizabeth and Mary. Amen