

Daily Advent Readings & Meditation - 2023

First Thursday of Advent December 7



Today's Texts:

Isaiah 7:10-14: The prophecy of Immanuel, God with us.

Luke 1:39-45: Mary visits Elizabeth, who pronounces a blessing over her and her child.

Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

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? For as soon as 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 fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Today's Meditation: The prophecy in Isaiah unveils the divine promise of Immanuel - a name that resonates with the profound truth that God is indeed with us. This promise is not just a distant hope, but a present reality, reminding us that in our joys and struggles, we are never alone. Luke's narrative of Mary's visit to Elizabeth further illuminates this divine presence. It's a moment of mutual recognition and blessing, where the presence of God within us sparks joy and affirmation in others. These passages encourage us to recognize and celebrate the divine presence in our lives and in each other, fostering connections that are deep and genuine. Today, let us be mindful of the sacred in our interactions, acknowledging that in each encounter, we meet not just a person, but the divine presence within them.

Something to Think and Pray About:

- How can you become more aware of God's presence in your daily life and in those around you?
- In what ways can you nurture and celebrate the divine spark in yourself and in others?

A Prayer For Today: Gracious God, as we journey through Advent, help us to recognize and cherish Your presence in our lives and in those we meet. May the knowledge of Your closeness bring us comfort, joy, and a deeper connection with others. In our interactions, let us honor the divine presence in each person, creating a community of love and mutual respect. Amen.

