

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



4th Sunday in Advent

19 December 2021 - Year C

“Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?”

Something to Think About

Is there anyone you know who might like a visit from you?
Or is there someone for whom you could do a kind deed?

The Story

Mary makes a journey to see Elizabeth. Elizabeth is expecting a baby who will grow up to be John the Baptist. Mary is expecting her baby, Jesus. When Mary arrives, the baby inside Elizabeth moves with joy. Elizabeth exclaims that Mary has been blessed more than any other woman because she believed that God's promise would come true.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-45

Mary hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea.
She went into Zechariah's home,
where she greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
her baby moved within her.

The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth.
Then in a loud voice she said to Mary:
"God has blessed you more than any other woman!
He has also blessed the child you will have.
Why should the mother of my Lord come to me?
As soon as I heard your greeting,
my baby became happy and moved within me.
The Lord has blessed you because you believed
that he will keep his promise."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video:

[Blessing](#)



Group Discussion

A blessing is a prayer that asks God to protect and look after someone.

Who would you like to bless today?

As well as saying a prayer for someone, you can be a blessing to them through what you say and do.

How might you be a blessing to someone this week?

Praying For Others

Leader: Creator God, teach us to care for one another and to reach out to those in need.

Reader 1: We pray for women who are expecting a baby. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for our families, friends and neighbours. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that God will bless us as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we might be a blessing to others. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for our own needs. (*Encourage children to compose their own prayers*). Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,

We thank you for all the wonderful blessings you give us.
Help us to be a blessing for others through our kind words and actions.

Amen.

Group Activity

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS TREE

You will need: one tree template for each child, template of small circles (pre-cut for small children), coloured markers, glitter, scissors.

Optional: hole-punch, circle stickers, ribbon, blu-tac.

1. Think of a blessing God has given you. Cut out a circle and write or draw that blessing inside it. Stick your circle on the tree.
2. Then think of another blessing and follow the same steps. Continue until your tree is brimming with blessings!
3. Display this somewhere in your home to remind yourself of all the wonderful blessings in your life.

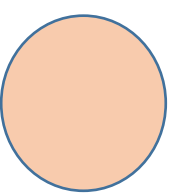
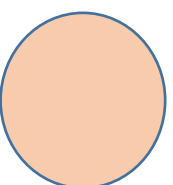
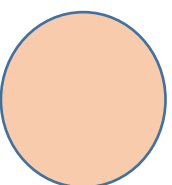
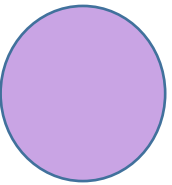
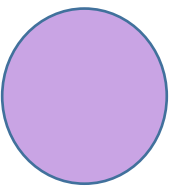
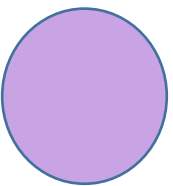
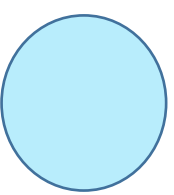
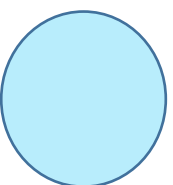
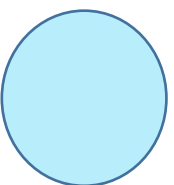
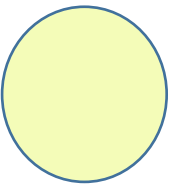
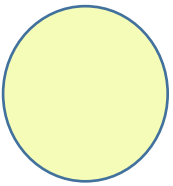
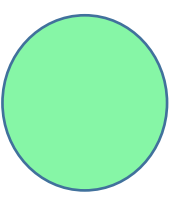
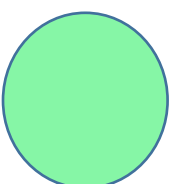
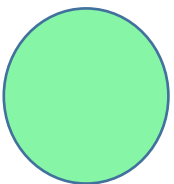
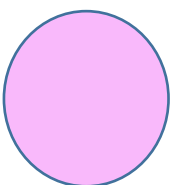
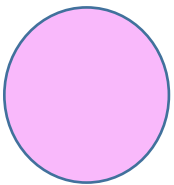
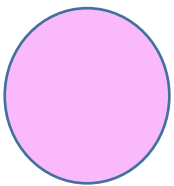
** An alternative to cutting out the circle shapes with scissors is to use a circle punch to cut circles out of coloured paper. Alternatively, you may like to use circular stickers.**



A Blessing Tree



God's Blessings



STEPS TO FOLLOW:

1. Think of a blessing God has given you. Cut out a circle and write or draw that blessing inside it. Stick your circle on the tree.
2. Then think of another blessing and follow the same steps. Continue until your tree is brimming with blessings!
3. Display this somewhere in your home to remind yourself of all the wonderful blessings in your life.



Say 'HELLO' to Mary.
She is blessed by God.
The Lord Jesus is with her.
He will soon be born and
Mary is his mother.
Ask her to pray for us
now and all during our life.

**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.**