New Hope Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

First Reading: Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45; 56-58

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, **40** where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit **42** and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43** And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? **44** For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home. **57** Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. **58** Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.