

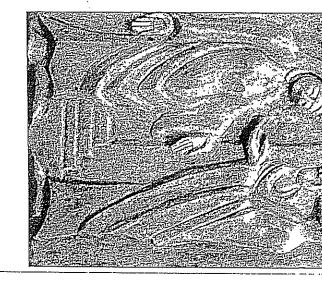
★ LUKE 1:39-56

★ LECTIONARY: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,

 \star see also annunciation of the Lord

र्भ CATECHISM 273, 495, 2097, 2618-2619, 2676

ever played out on Earth. Savior was the greatest story can unfold. The life of the voices are stilled so the drama room. Once the lights dim, the buzz of happy voices fills the that before the curtain rises, the theater performance, you know ll f you have ever been to a live



spoke in happy voices and an infant even leapt joyfully. These things occurred when Mary visited her relative Elizabeth. According to the Gospel of Luke; months before Jesus' debut, women

act of love and service. this visit to Elizabeth we see Mary, the first Christ-bearer, carrying out an Perhaps Mary also wished to share her own good news with someone. In already six months pregnant. Mary knew Elizabeth could use her help. the angel left; Mary went as quickly as she could to Elizabeth, who was God, he also told her that her aged relative was expecting a child. After When the angel Gabriel cold Mary that she would be the Mother of

probably made the four-day journey with a caravan, a company of travelers town Ain Karim, which is about five or six miles west of Jerusalem. Mary Elizabeth lived in the hill country of Judah. Tradition has named her

soon as Eliz?' ~h heard her voice, the baby within her leaped. Elizabeth your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my At the house of Zechariah, Mary entered and greeted Elizabeth. As lessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of

> the Lord was present (2 Samuel 6:14–15), John danced before the Lord unborn son John also responded to the presence of the unborn Savior. Just as King David once danced before the ark of the covenant in which Elizabeth realized that Mary was the mother of the Messiah. Elizabeth's Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42, 43) Inspired by the Holy Spirit

and wealthy, and helps the lowly and poor. She concluded by mentioning God's mercy in keeping the promises made to Abraham and his descengreat things for her. Then Mary observed that God puts down the proud gratitude that despite her lowliness God had chosen her and had done soul magnifies the Lord." Mary began the hymn by voicing her joy and who worked such wonders in her. She sang a canticle, a beautiful song praise and thanksgiving called the Magnificat from its first words, "Mj Elizabeth had praised Mary and Mary's son. Mary in turn praised Go

born. She then returned to Nazareth to await the birth of her own son Mary stayed with Elizabeth three months, probably until John was

the Messiah. He would prepare the way of the Lord John would be the last and greatest prophet to announce the coming of At the Visitation the Old Testament and the New Testament met.

gesture and writing? municate with Mary in Zechariah try to comthe Visitation. Does ACT OUT the scene of

write a version of the done for you? Or things the Lord has sion of the Magnificat. CREATE your own ver-What are the great

Mary might have done ing her stay. Plan a way to help Elizabeth durselfless love by serving you can imitate Mary's someone.

hood, or your parish family, your neighbor Magnificat for your CONSIDER the things