

## Advent Calendar: Day 15

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts  
1 Samuel 2:1-10, Romans 12:9-16b, Luke 1:39-57

### Luke 1:45

“And blessed is she who believed  
that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord”

The traditional Roman Catholic intercession, “Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb...” begins by quoting the first “blessing” Elizabeth proclaims concerning Mary but fails to recognize the second blessing which quickly follows, “blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” Elizabeth declares Mary as blest not only because she was chosen as a vessel for Christ’s indwelling but also because she responded to this Good News in the trust and obedience of belief. We are also blest to be chosen to bear Jesus in our lives; however, the fullness of our blessedness is only realized when we trust that Good News and obediently live in it as did Mary.

How has God blessed you? We frequently say in our worship, “The Lord be(is) with you.” How does that reality bless you? How can you more completely trust and respond to Jesus’ promised presence in your life? How does that belief make your experience of His blessings more efficacious?