



## Advent Reflections for EOHSJ 4th Sunday of Advent 2018

Reflection by Rev. Sir Mark A. Strader, KCHS

**A**dvent is such a beautiful season. I am particularly fond of the Fourth Sunday of Advent because of the images that come to mind.

**I** can only imagine the initial fear in the Blessed Mother's mind as the Archangel Gabriel appeared announcing her fate. My ears hear the words of peace offered to her, beckoning her to not succumb to fear but to trust in the Lord. Mary choosing to let go and let God's will be done becoming the handmaid of the Lord, expresses a willingness to allow God to use her as the vessel to bring salvation into the world. Finally, we hear Mary proceeding in haste to the hill country, not thinking of herself, but to carry the Good News in the tabernacle of her body to her cousin Elizabeth sharing in her joy of a soon-to-be mother.

**T**his year we truly make haste in our journey with Mary, as this morning, we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent and early this week we celebrate Christmas Eve. May our hearts be filled with expectation this day as we contemplate the "Word made Flesh." God's love among us is fully realized in the complete discipleship of Mary and Elizabeth and the birth of Emmanuel. May the Word made Flesh bring healing and peace to our lives and truly transform our lives. May your families celebrate a Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

**Faith practice: Leap in the womb of creation in the presence of the Lord!**

*BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED THAT WHAT  
WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD  
WOULD BE FULFILLED.*

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