



Advent Day 21 (written by Deb Bakken)

Dove

Luke 1:41-45

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished! (NIV 1984)

The dove symbol has been used for thousands of years to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit showed himself in the form of a dove when John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

Today's Bible reading took place before either John or Jesus was born. Both of their moms were expecting babies and were visiting together. Elizabeth said to Mary, "The baby in my womb leaped for joy."

Tiny babies usually do not show a feeling of joy. They may be content for awhile, but much of the time they cry and are irritated. God's own Word, which is always true, says this tiny baby, not yet even born, leaped for joy, because the Savior was close by. Such a faith can be created only by a miracle of the Holy Spirit.

This is the same miracle that happens each time someone is baptized or begins to believe in Jesus. It is the same miracle that happens when our faith is kept strong by God's Word.

Prayer: Dear Holy Spirit, please keep on doing your miracles in us and in others. Bring many to faith in Jesus and keep us always in the faith. Amen.