

Birth of John the Baptist

Luke 1:57-80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth to her son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they came to share her joy.

“Elizabeth, we will name him Zechariah, after his father.”

But Elizabeth said, “No, his name is to be John.”

“Elizabeth, there is no one in your family named John. He must be named after his father. Come, let’s talk to Zechariah.”

When they found Zechariah sitting outside his home, he motioned for his tablet. To everyone’s astonishment, he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately, his mouth opened and he could speak. His first words were to praise God.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel

Because he has come and has redeemed his people.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us

In the house of his servant David.

He has brought salvation from our enemies

And from all those who hate us.

To show mercy to our fathers

And to remember his holy covenant;

The oath he swore to our father Abraham
To rescue us from the hand of our enemies
And to enable us to serve him without fear
In holiness before him all the days of our lives.
And then taking the child in his arms, he said,

And you my child, John, you will be called
A prophet of the Most High.
For you will go on before the Lord
To prepare the way for him

To give his people the knowledge of salvation
Through the forgiveness of their sins.
Because of the tender mercy of our God,
By which the rising sun will come to us from heaven,
To shine on those living in darkness
And in the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the path of peace.

The neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people talked of these things. Everyone who heard these things wondered about it and asked, “What then is this child going to be for surely the Lord’s hand is with him?”

