

## The Gospel According to Luke 1:39-80

### *Time to Celebrate!*

39 In those days Mary set out & went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah & greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. & Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>& exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>& why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>& blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

### *Why Mary Rejoices*

46 & Mary said,  
'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> & my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
& holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
& lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
& sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham & to his descendants forever.'

56 & Mary remained with her for about three months & then returned to her home.

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, & she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbours & relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, & they rejoiced with her.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, & they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' <sup>61</sup>They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing-tablet & wrote, 'His name is John.' & all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened & his tongue freed, & he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbours, & all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them & said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

### *Zechariah's Prophecy*

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit & spoke this prophecy:

<sup>68</sup> 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favourably on his people & redeemed them.  
<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a mighty saviour for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup> that we would be saved from our enemies & from the hand of all who hate us.  
<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
& has remembered his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness & righteousness  
before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup> & you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness & in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

80 The child grew & became strong in spirit, & he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.