

*DailyLife*  
*Advent 2015*

*December 7-11*

*The Songs of the Nativity*



# *Day 1 - Morning*

## **Reading**

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years."

*from Luke 1*

## **Reflection**

Stories like Zechariah & Elizabeth's remind us that trials are not curses, they are opportunities for us to practice and display our faith in our God who has been faithful.

## **† Pause & Reflect**

## **Preparation**

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.

*From 1 Samuel*

## **The Song of Zechariah with Response**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
For he has visited and redeemed his people;  
And has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
In the house of his servant David

As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets  
Who have been from of old,  
Salvation from our enemies,  
And from the hand of all who hate us;

*Response*

You have not remained far from us.  
Through everything,  
You see us,  
You know us,  
You are with us.  
Remind my heart of this.

To show mercy towards our fathers,  
To remember his holy covenant,  
The oath which he swore to Abraham, our father,  
To grant to us that we,  
being delivered out of the hand of our enemies,  
should serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
Whereby the dawn from on high will visit us,  
To shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;  
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Response*

You are tender and merciful  
You are Immanuel,  
A warm light, a new day for us,  
under death's shadow.

*From Luke 1*

## † Pause & Reflect

### Closing

The Lord is my shepherd:

I shall lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil.

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and loving kindness  
shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the Lord's house forever.

*From Psalm 23*

Amen,

Yes,

Come Lord Jesus.

*From Revelation 22*

# *Day 2 - Morning*

## **Reading**

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

*From Malachi 3*

## **Reflection**

Does God’s promise cause delight in you? What in your life will be different when he appears? Don’t wait for his appearance to prepare his way.

## **† Pause & Reflect**

## **Preparation**

Spirit of truth, Guide us into all truth,  
Speak so we can hear;  
Glorify Jesus.

*From John 16*

## **The Song of Zechariah with Response**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
For he has visited and redeemed his people;  
And has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
In the house of his servant David

*Response*

You have said the peacemakers are your children.  
You have taught us pray,  
Remembering:  
To know forgiveness is to give it.

As you spoke by the mouth of your holy prophets  
Who have been from of old,  
To show mercy towards our fathers,  
To remember your holy covenant,  
The oath which you swore to Abraham, our father,  
To grant to us that we,  
being delivered out of the hand of our enemies,  
should serve you without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before you all the days of our life.

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
Whereby the dawn from on high will visit us,  
To shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;  
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Response*

You are tender and merciful  
You are Immanuel,  
A warm light, a new day for us,  
under death's shadow.

*From Luke 1*

## † Pause & Reflect

### **Closing**

Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be kept holy.  
Let your Kingdom come.  
Let your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors.  
Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.  
For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.  
*From Matthew 6 - The Lord's Prayer*

Amen,  
Yes,  
Come Lord Jesus.  
*From Revelation 22*

# *Day 3 - Morning*

## **Reading**

But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

*From Malachi 3*

## **Reflection**

Our Christmas our sentiment is typically not “Who can stand when he appears...He is like a reindeers fire”. Think about our songs, we are more meek and mild and gentle Jesus. Sometimes we forget the epic, reality shifting part of the story we are remembering. We pray again today, “Come Lord Jesus” to our broken world.

## **† Pause & Reflect**

## **Preparation**

Father, in your Spirit,  
Let the word of Christ dwell in us,  
Richly.

*From Colossians 3*

## **The Song of Zechariah with Response**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
For he has visited and redeemed his people;  
And has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
In the house of his servant David  
As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets

Who have been from of old,  
Salvation from our enemies,  
And from the hand of all who hate us;

*Response*

Father,  
Let it be on earth as in heaven.  
You have our allegiance,  
You have our obedience,  
No other.  
Let your kingdom come,  
Let your will be done.

To show mercy towards our fathers,  
To remember his holy covenant,  
The oath which he swore to Abraham, our father,  
To grant to us that we,  
being delivered out of the hand of our enemies,  
should serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
Whereby the dawn from on high will visit us,  
To shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;  
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Response*

You are tender and merciful  
You are Immanuel,  
A warm light, a new day for us,  
under death's shadow.

*From Luke 1*

## † Pause & Reflect

### **Closing**

We are crucified with Christ,  
It is no longer our life,  
but Christ living in us.  
We live by faith in the Son of God,  
Who loved us, and gave himself up for us.

Our life is hidden with Christ in God.  
When Christ who is our life appears,  
then we will also appear with him in glory.  
*From Galatians 2 & Colossians 3*

Amen,  
Yes,  
Come Lord Jesus.  
*From Revelation 22*

# *Day 4 - Morning*

## **Reading**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*From Philippians 2*

## **Reflection**

Humility has a way of humiliating us, but glorifying God. And Jesus' way is the way of humility.

## **† Pause & Reflect**

## **Preparation**

Show us your ways,

Guide us in your truth,

Teach us.

For you are the God of our salvation,

We wait for you all day long.

*From Psalm 25:4–5*

## **The Song of Zechariah with Response**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
For he has visited and redeemed his people;  
And has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
In the house of his servant David  
As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets  
Who have been from of old,  
Salvation from our enemies,  
And from the hand of all who hate us;

### *Response*

Our blessing is,  
The salvation we live in,  
Is you.  
You redeem us.  
You are near.

To show mercy towards our fathers,  
To remember his holy covenant,  
The oath which he swore to Abraham, our father,  
To grant to us that we,  
being delivered out of the hand of our enemies,  
should serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.  
For he has visited and redeemed his people;  
To remember his holy covenant,

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
Whereby the dawn from on high will visit us,  
To shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;  
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Response*

Because of your tender mercy,  
You are Immanuel,  
Shining on those under death's shadow.

*From Luke 1*

## † Pause & Reflect

### **Closing**

Christ died for our sins,  
Christ was buried,  
Christ was raised on the third day,  
According to the Scriptures.

Death came by man,  
Resurrection from death also came by man.  
In Adam all die,  
So also in Christ all will be made alive.

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

*From 1 Corinthians 15*

Amen,  
Yes,  
Come Lord Jesus.

*From Revelation 22*

# *Day 5 - Morning*

## **Reading**

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

*From Isaiah 40*

## **Reflection**

The accomplishment of any sort of work usually requires pre-work, preparation. What are the places of wilderness and desert in your life? What needs lifting up, and what needs humbling? What does preparing the way of the Lord look like for you today?

## **† Pause & Reflect**

## **Preparation**

Let the Messiah, Jesus be formed in us.

*From Galatians 4*

## **The Song of Zechariah with Response**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
For he has visited and redeemed his people;  
And has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
In the house of his servant David

As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets  
Who have been from of old,  
Salvation from our enemies,  
And from the hand of all who hate us;

*Response*

We recall your faithfulness to generations.

From Abraham

To Israel-Jacob

To David

To Jesus

To us.

We remember that you remember.

To show mercy towards our fathers,  
To remember his holy covenant,  
The oath which he swore to Abraham, our father,  
To grant to us that we,  
being delivered out of the hand of our enemies,  
should serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.  
For he has visited and redeemed his people;  
To remember his holy covenant,

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
Whereby the dawn from on high will visit us,  
To shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death;  
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Response*

Because of your tender mercy,

You are Immanuel,

Shining on those under death's shadow.

*From Luke 1*

## † Pause & Reflect

### Closing

Great and marvelous are your works,  
Lord God, the Almighty!  
Righteous and true are your ways,  
King of the nations.  
Who wouldn't fear you, Lord,  
and glorify your name?

For you only are holy.  
For all the nations will come and worship before you.  
For your righteous acts have been revealed.  
*From Revelation 15 - "The Song of Moses and the Lamb"*

Amen,  
Yes,  
Come Lord Jesus.  
*From Revelation 22*

*For more,*

<http://www.lordteachustoprayer.com/daily-prayer/>

<http://www.fiveoaks.church>

