

the **ADVENT MYSTERIES**

ANNUNCIATION TO ZECHARIAH

from the **Augustine Bible** w/ ref to Greek, Vulgate, Confraternity, & NAB translations

1 In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah...
...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... But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

2 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty... he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense...and there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing to the right of the altar of incense.

3 Zechariah was troubled when he saw him and fear fell upon him.

4 But the angel said to him "Fear not Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard... Your wife Elizabeth shall bear you a son and you shall call his name John.

5 He will be great before the Lord...and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb.

6 He will go before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just...
...to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.

7 Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years.

8 The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and bring you this good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their time.

9 The people were waiting for Zechariah...and when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple...he kept making signs to them and remained mute.

10 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among men."

ANNUNCIATION TO MARY

1 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the Virgin's name was **Mary**.

2 And when the angel had come to her he said "Rejoice **'Having been filled with Grace'** the Lord is with thee."

3 But she was greatly troubled at the saying and kept **pondering** what manner of greeting this might be.

4 And the angel said to her, "Fear not Mary, for you have found **favor** with God. **Behold**, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bear a son and thou shalt call His Name **Jesus**."

5 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He shall reign over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there shall be no end.

6 And Mary said to the angel, **"How shall this be since I do not know man?"**

7 And the angel answered her, "The **Holy Spirit** shall come upon thee, and the power of the **Most High** shall overshadow thee; therefore the child to be born will be called Holy... **the Son of God**."

8 And behold, Elizabeth, thy kinswoman in her old age has also conceived a son, and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month, **for nothing shall be impossible for God**.

9 And Mary said, "Behold the **handmaid** of the Lord...be it done to me according to thy word."

10 With that, the angel left her.

THE VISITATION

1 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

2 And it came to pass, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, **"Blessed** art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!

3 And how have I deserved that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, the moment that the sound of thy greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leapt for **joy**.

4 **Blessed** is she who has believed, because the things promised her by the Lord shall be **accomplished**.”

5 And Mary said, “My soul **magnifies** the Lord, and my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior, for He has regarded the lowliness of His **handmaid**.

6 For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.

7 And His **mercy** is from generation to generation on those who fear Him. He has shown might with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

8 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

9 He has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He has **remembered** His promise of **mercy**, the promise He made to our Fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.”

10 And Mary **remained** with her about three months, and then returned home.

BIRTH OF JOHN

1 Now Elizabeth’s time was **fulfilled** that she should be delivered and she brought forth a son.

2 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had **magnified** His **mercy** towards her, and they **rejoiced** with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called **John**.”

3 And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “**John** is his name.”

4 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed...and he spoke, blessing God.

5 Zechariah... **filled** with the Holy Spirit...prophesied, saying, “**Blessed** be the Lord the God of Israel, for He has come to His people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of His servant David.

6 Through His holy prophets He promised of old that He would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show **mercy** to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant.

7 This was the oath He swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies; free to worship Him without fear, holy and righteous in His sight, all the days of our life.

8 You my child shall be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way, to give His people knowledge of salvation by the **forgiveness of their sins**.

9 In the tender compassion of our God the Dawn from on High shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

10 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the deserts until the day of his manifestation to Israel.

ANNUNCIATION TO JOSEPH

1 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

2 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly.

3 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife,

4 ...that which is begotten in her is from the Holy Spirit."

5 "She will bring forth a Son and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

6 Now all this came to pass that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled:

7 *"Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel" which means 'God with us.'*"

8 When Joseph awakened from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

9 He took his wife, but knew her not until she bore to a Son.

10 And he called His Name Jesus.