



Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 1

Law/Gospel

As a child of the first parents, Adam and Eve, I am sinful and in need of salvation. **John, the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, and others who proclaim the Good News point me to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

Bible Words

With God all things are possible.
Matthew 19:26

Fun Facts

Zechariah's song of praise thanked God for his son's birth. It also prophesied about the work John would do to prepare people to meet the promised Messiah, Jesus.

Zechariah foretold, "You child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God" (Luke 1:76–78).

We sing Zechariah's song, the Benedictus, in the Orders of Matins and Morning Prayer in *Lutheran Service Book* (pp. 226–27, 238–39).

The Birth of John

Luke 1:57–80

God did not say yes to Elizabeth and Zechariah's prayers for a son because they earned His favor. God gave them a child because their son was part of God's plan to bring His Son into the world.

The angel Gabriel told Zechariah this when he announced John's birth. Gabriel said their son would be great before the Lord and filled with the Holy Spirit, even in the womb. John would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the people to meet Jesus.

John's birth brought much joy to his parents, relatives, and neighbors.

God gave John parents who taught him to fear, love, and trust in our Lord God. The Holy Spirit at work in John's life gave him faith and prepared him for the work the Lord planned for him to do.

The Holy Spirit is at work in you too. He works through His Word and Sacraments to give you faith, to strengthen you to live as His child, and to give you courage and power to do the work He prepared for you to do.

By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8–10)

Prayer

God of great mercy, thank You for making us Your children in Baptism. Open our eyes to see the work You prepared for us to do. Give us grace to live as Your people in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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