

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent ~ JOY**

**“The Lord Showed Elizabeth Mercy” ~ Luke 1:57-66**

\*ADVENT SONG                      Light the Advent Candle One (Vs. 1-3)  
\*HYMN # 170                              “Once in Royal David’s City”  
\*DOXOLOGY  
Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:6-11  
\*HYMN #192                              “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

PRAYERFUL RESPONSE HYMN # 165                      Emmanuel  
Scripture: Luke 1:57-66  
Title: The Lord Showed Elizabeth Mercy  
\*HYMN #181                              “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Purpose Statement: The birth of John was celebrated. They broke into music and song. Zechariah’s home had a double joy. A great announcement with expectations. Why was Zachariah mute? What do covenants mean? Why was Elizabeth pregnant? How was Zechariah healed? He praises God with joy to bless the Lord.

OUTLINE: The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, conceived \_\_\_\_\_ (**miraculously**) beyond her time to be able to give birth. Being the recipient of great mercy they rejoiced with her. Vs. 59. On the 8<sup>th</sup> day, “*He shall be called John.*” A birth in Israel was a huge celebration. People would gather, even local musicians, and if a boy was born, they would have a party. In the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth the joy was \_\_\_\_\_ (**double**).

They would receive a son beyond the possibilities of having babies. The child’s name was announced during the circumcision. Everybody thought he would be named after his father. Zechariah was made \_\_\_\_\_ (**mute**) because he \_\_\_\_\_ (**doubted**) and \_\_\_\_\_ (**disbelieved**) that Elizabeth could have a baby. Elizabeth reassured his name will be John.

Circumcision was a Covenant sign for the Jews through Abraham (Genesis 17:10-12). “Keep this covenant...” Circumcision is a

Covenant sign between God and Israel. Vs. 61 “*None of your relatives is named John.*” They made signs to Zechariah but he is mute not deaf. He wrote “*His name is John.*” Vs. 64. “\_\_\_\_\_ (**Immediately**), his mouth was open, tongue loosed, and he blessed the Lord.” Could you imagine being mute for 9 months? The first thing, he praises and blesses the Lord. What happened to the neighbors? Vs. 65 “\_\_\_\_\_ (**Fear**) came upon all the neighbors.” The neighbors talked about all these things. What will this child be? It’s a supernatural thing. Did you hear about Zechariah? He can’t talk. He saw an Angel. Elizabeth pregnant at 56 years old. The name is going to be John. How? Why? Zechariah received his voice after he said, “*his name is John.*”

Vs. 67 “*Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit.*” This isn’t referring about \_\_\_\_\_ (**salvation**), but to do something. He prophesied because God has redeemed his people.

What does joy do? In reading a devotional by Robert Morgan, “*On this Day.*” He said, “Many people spell Christmas without Christ, the glory of the Holy Day being replaced with the \_\_\_\_\_ (**glitz**) and glamour of the holiday. The same problem with St. Francis of Assisi in Central Italy 1182. What did Francis feel? “*He felt that Christ was speaking \_\_\_\_\_ (**directly**) to him.*” How did he spend his remaining days? How did he live? How should we live our days?

**December 15 11:00 a.m.**

Advent Song played by Harold Heller

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

“What Child Is This?”

“Hymn of Joy”

“Joy To The World”

played by Harold Heller

Francesca Battistelli

Chris Tomlin

King & Country