

Luke Chapter 1

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his **wife was of the daughters of Aaron**, and her **name was Elisabeth**. **6** And **they were both righteous** before God, **walking in all the commandments** and ordinances of the Lord **blameless**. **7** And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were *now* well stricken in years. **8** And it came to pass, that **while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course**, **9** According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. **10** And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. **11** And there appeared unto him an **angel** of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12** And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. **13** But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and **thou shalt call his name John**.

The Couples of Christmas

Act I – A Priest and a Promise

Zacharias enters the temple for his sacred duty. Struck dumb by the divine, he returns home where Elisabeth ponders the miracle alone, retreating into seclusion. Each speaks of their experience with honest awe.

Act II – A Virgin and a Vision

Mary and Joseph share their inner thoughts. Mary receives news that will change history, responding with wonder and faith. Joseph wrestles with reason and righteousness in light of a mystery beyond understanding.

Act III – A Meeting and a Magnificat

Mary visits Elisabeth. The unborn leap. The mothers rejoice. Mary sings, and prophecy flows between the generations. Together, they affirm the holy mission of their sons: to prepare the way and to save.

**"He hath holpen his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy."**

—Luke 1:54