

## Scripture Readings – Dec. 7, 2025 – Advent 2 - LCPC

### Introduction to Scripture:

"Every year on our way to Advent we bump into John the Baptist and his proclamation, "'Prepare a Way... make a pathway for God's coming.'" We should probably have a nativity figure for John! He certainly has a role in the incarnation story.

In fact, Luke's gospel begins, not with Jesus' birth, but with the story about John's birth. And the clue to understanding John's proclamation about preparing a way and our Advent theme of peace is found in the song his own father sings at his birth.

When Zechariah becomes a father, he sings with joy as he gazes at his newborn son. The song he sings points to a deep yearning for peace. When you think about it, doesn't our own longing for peace in the world, and the healing of creation, become more urgent when we have children and grandchildren whose futures stretch out beyond our own? (Kathryn Matthews, "'Sound of a Promise Kept.'") Looking at his baby, Zechariah sings of a salvation - a wholeness that is healing for the damage the world does because of sin and brokenness, because of greed and hatred and violence. Zechariah sings of a restoration of things to what they ought to be. He sings of his hope for the role his son, John, will play in the unfolding drama of incarnation.

Here is an excerpt of Zechariah's song at the birth of John, the Baptist, and his prayer for peace made incarnate in John's prophetic ministry and in us; and then an excerpt of John, the Baptist, calling us to prepare a way for Jesus' coming."

### Luke 1:67, 76 -80

#### **Zechariah's Prophecy**

<sup>67</sup> Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup> to give his people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup> Because of the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace."

<sup>80</sup> The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

### Luke 3: 2b – 6

<sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "



*May God's spirit shape our understanding  
of these words.*

***And may they awaken in our hearts.***