

Reflection Thursday Advent week 4 Christmas Eve 2020

Listen again to the prayer of praise from the lips of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, at his birth, slightly adapted

Praise be to the Lord God of Israel, our God.

He has come to help us, his people, and has given us freedom.

He has given us a powerful saviour, a descendent from the family of his servant, king David.

This is what he promised us through his holy prophets long ago.

He will save us from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us.

God promised he would show mercy to our fathers and that he would keep his holy covenant (*agreement*) with us.

This was the promise he made to Abraham, a promise to free us from the power of our enemies, so that we could serve him without fear in a way that is holy and right for as long as we live.

Now you, little boy – John - you will be called a prophet of the Most High God.

You will go before the Lord to prepare the way before him.

You will help his people understand that they will be saved by having their sins forgiven.

Because of the loving mercy of our God, a new day from heaven will shine on us.

It will bring light to those who live in darkness and in the fear of death.

This light will guide us along the road that leads to peace.

And thus the scene is set for us to welcome Jesus' new birth