

July 6
The Sun is Rising

But to you who fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in
its wings. – Malachi 4:2

[Luke 1:1-17, Judean hill country] Now the time that Elizabeth should give birth was fulfilled, and she brought forth a son. Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had magnified his mercy towards her, and they rejoiced with her. It happened on the eighth day that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him Zacharias, after the name of the father. His mother answered, “Not so; but he will be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” They made signs to his father, what he would have him called.

He asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, “His name is John.”

They all marveled. His mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue freed, and he spoke, blessing God. Fear came on all who lived around them, and all these sayings were talked about throughout all the hill country of Judea. All who heard them laid them up in their heart, saying, “What then will this child be?” The hand of the Lord was with him. His father, Zacharias, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying,

“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

for he has visited and worked
redemption for his people;

*Because of the tender mercy
of our God...the dawn from
on high will visit us*

and has raised up a horn of salvation for
us in the house of his servant David

(as he spoke by the
mouth of his holy
prophets who have been
from of old),

salvation ‘from our
enemies’, and ‘from the hand of all
who hate us’ [Psalm 103:10];

to show mercy towards our fathers,
to remember his holy covenant,
the oath which he spoke to Abraham, our
father,

to grant to us that we, being delivered
out of the hand of our enemies,
should serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before
him all the days of our life.

And you, child, will be called a prophet of
the Most High,

for you will go ‘before the face of the
Lord to prepare his ways’ [Malachi 3:1],

to give knowledge of salvation to his
people by the remission of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the dawn from on high will visit
us,

‘to shine on those who sit in darkness
and the shadow of death’ [Isaiah 9:2];

to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The child was growing, and becoming
strong in spirit, and was in the desert until
the day of his public appearance to Israel.

1. Describe this circumcision party. What was the climax? What did Zacharias know?
2. From which enemies did Jesus save us? Was this what Zacharias described?
3. Jesus, thank you for remitting—pardoning—my sin so I can know the salvation from...