

The Canticle of Zachariah

(Luke 1:67 – 79, 80) (NAB) (67) Then Zechariah his father, filled with the holy Spirit, prophesied, saying: (68) "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people. (69) He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David his servant, (70) even as he promised through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old: (71) salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, (72) to show mercy to our fathers and to be mindful of his holy covenant (73) and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father, and to grant us that, (74) rescued from the hand of enemies, without fear we might worship him (75) in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. (76) And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, (77) to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, (78) because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us (79) to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace." (80) The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.