



Daily Reflections

ANGEL GABRIEL'S ANNUNCIATION TO ZECHARIAH

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him.

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his

birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."

Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute.

Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home.

After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others."

LUKE 1:5-25

Reflection

Zechariah entered the sanctuary to burn incense before God when the angel of the Lord appeared before him with a startling message: *"Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son..."* What was happening in Zechariah when he heard the angel's promise? Was it that, for too long, he and Elizabeth had been childless and now that they were both elderly, he couldn't begin to imagine having a child? Imagine a new possibility? Had he given up hope, lost his trust in God who can do marvelous things? It was already wondrous that an angel of the Lord had appeared to him in the sanctuary – yet, how could he trust in this promise that Elizabeth would have a child? When Zechariah asked this question, the angel revealed his name: *"I am Gabriel who stands before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news."* God announced good news to Zechariah, and he was stunned into silence until this came about.



"NT011.Zechariah and Angel" by pestratman is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

For Pondering and Prayer

When I considered this passage this morning, my heart opened to God: what do you want to say to me today? Now? I, too, have lived many years – what new things do you want to accomplish in my sight? What is the Good News, the Gospel, you want to proclaim today? Help me imagine your hand at work in our troubled and suffering world. Gracious God, you continue to surprise us with your wisdom, your care and extravagant love. With trust, I will wait for

you. I remember these words spoken by the prophet Isaiah: *“Behold, I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”* (43:19)

In the presence of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and their son, John, let us awaken to the work our Creator God wants to accomplish in our presence today.

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support CSD



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by thecsd@csjorange.org