

Let us praise God all the daylong!

Isaiah 49:1-6

Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15

Acts 13:22-26

Luke 1:57-66, 80



Isaiah was formed in the womb by the Lord and called from birth and is therefore identified as a prophet who has a special role in the transformation of Israel. He is God's servant and his recompense is with God. He is the prophet who calls Israel to repentance so that they can be made into a light for the nations. Isaiah's strength came from the Lord God.

The psalmist acknowledges that the Lord knew full well his soul even as he was being formed in the womb. He thanks the Lord for being made so wonderfully. The Lord knows him, understands his thoughts, discerns his purpose from afar, and is familiar with all of his ways.

Paul reminds his listeners that God raised up David to carry out his wishes. Jesus is a descendant according to prophetic promises, and was heralded by John the Baptist who proclaimed a baptism of repentance. It is to us who are God-fearing believers, Paul says, that the word of salvation is sent.

Elizabeth gave birth to her son and friends rejoiced with her for this great blessing. She indicates he would be called "John" even though the name would be breaking custom. Zechariah agrees to this by writing and his tongue is immediately freed to speak again. Fear came upon the people and they wondered what this child would be as they recognized a greater meaning in the events. John grew up and became strong in spirit.



**The Father understands our every thought,
The Son is familiar with all of our ways,
The Holy Spirit guides us on straight paths.**

Isaiah emphasizes that God calls Israel to become a light for the nations while John the Baptist points to Jesus as the one who leads us to salvation. Isaiah and John the Baptist are called forth from the womb just as the prophet Moses. The psalmist also emphasizes the point of God knowing how he too was being formed even before birth. John's birth is surrounded with a mystery because his father regains his power of speech once the name designated by the angel is confirmed and accepted

God of goodness, grant us
To desire ardently,
To seek wisely,
To know surely,
And to accomplish perfectly your holy will,
For the glory of your name.

St. Thomas Aquinas

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