

**God on the Move: It Is Time**  
**Luke 1:57-66 Sunday AM, July 7, 2024**

**Prelude – Scripture: Luke 1:57-66** (NASB95) Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her. 59 And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. 60 But his mother answered and said, “No indeed; but he shall be called John.” 61 And they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name.” 62 And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. 63 And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, “His name is John.” And they were all astonished. 64 And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. 65 Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, “What then will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

The last couple of weeks saw Mary and Elizabeth come together to share the news of their impossible babies. Both responded with praise to God. “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 “And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?” 46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 “For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. 49 “For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name. Mary recognizes the breadth of God’s plan noting that God’s goodness did not center on her alone, but that **HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM**. God’s people would be cared for according to His promises to them. 54 “He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever.” Rejoice with Mary and Elizabeth in the trustworthy nature of God’s Promises to care for His own.

**\*Hymn #34: The God of Abraham Praise**

And today, Elizabeth gives birth to a son! There is great rejoicing, but immediately, there is a test. The neighbors and relatives have a name picked out—to honor the family, his name must be Zacharias. There, it’s settled. “No indeed,” said Elizabeth, “but he shall be called John.” That settles it—his mother said his name is John. NO it doesn’t settle it. **No one among your relatives who is called by that name**. Wow! I wonder if Pastor Jahn will address this. WE focus on individualism, they focused on the heritage of the family. They felt so strongly that they went to Zecharias. What is his name? His name is John. Now it’s settled. Elizabeth blessed Mary for trusting the word of the Lord and now these two act in accordance with God’s Word as they named their child according to Gabriel’s instructions. And thus, the glory goes to God—the One who knows each of us by name.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): He Knows My Name (I Have a Maker)**

**\*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Scripture: Genesis 15:1-21** (NASB95) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.” 2 Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.” 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” 5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.” 8 He said, “O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?” 9 So He said to him, “Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. 11 The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. 12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 “But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15 “As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. 16 “Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.” 17 It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite 20 and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim 21 and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.”

**Offering: \*Doxology:**

Abraham believed God’s word to him about another impossible child, and that trust in God’s word was counted as righteousness. And in that same vein, Zacharias has learned more of trusting the word of the God he fears, and acting upon that trust, he obeys the instructions concerning the naming of his son 64 And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. That public praise brought glory to God as the news spread. 65 Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them kept them in mind, saying, “What then will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him. As Pastor prepares to preach, learn this song of praise to God for His goodness to mankind.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Rejoice**

**Message: “God on the Move: It is Time” Luke 1:57-66**

**\*Hymn #375: Jesus Calls Us**

**The Lord’s Table**

Know the joy of Elizabeth and Zacharias today—not in their own heritage, but in their heritage of being God’s own and part of His good plan. You are special, His creation, but your worth comes not by making much of you, but as you make much of the One who loved you and gave Himself for you. It cost much to bring the communion, the fellowship with God and with all those He purchased with His blood. Sing as we head out.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

**\*Prayer**