



# *Daily Reflections*

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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## PROPHET OF THE MOST HIGH

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

### The Verse Before Today's Gospel

*You, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.*

**LUKE 1:76**

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### Reflection

Generally, news that one is going to have a baby is greeted with joy and excitement. Couples who have found it difficult to conceive are disappointed, sad, and will do all that is humanly and medically possible to conceive and bring to birth a baby. This was the case for Elizabeth and Zechariah, though there were no medical advancements to help them. News that Elizabeth was pregnant in her advanced age was greeted with a mixture of disbelief, gratitude, and excitement. Zechariah was struck speechless until the birth of

his son.

The scripture above, from which the Alleluia verse flows, comes from the prayer of Zechariah when his tongue was loosened. The *Benedictus* is recited daily in morning prayer of the Church. For years I have said this prayer and stopped on the verse that seemed addressed to me as well:

***And You, my child, will be called prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.***

**LUKE 1:76**

Obviously, the statement is true of John the Baptist in his life and mission to prepare the way for Jesus, as recounted in the Gospel of Luke. I believe it can be said of any newborn as well -- each one made in the image and likeness of God and sent to be a unique reflection of God's presence in the world. What about you?

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Man with balloon  
Photo by NoName

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**For Pondering**

- How am I a "prophet of the Most High"?
  - In what ways do I prepare the way of the Lord in what I say, do, and respond to people in my sphere of influence?
  - Who has taught me to be a person in relationship with God?
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## For Prayer

*Gracious God,  
open my mind and heart to receive your Word to me.  
Help me discern your abiding presence.  
Open the ears of my heart to listen to your call and invitation  
to witness to you through my daily living and serving  
among the people of God.  
Amen.*

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