



LIVING IN THE LIGHT

## The Word

### **The Nativity of John the Baptist**

*Week of June 24*

#### ***Call to Prayer and Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
  
- ✦ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . ."*

#### ***The Word of God***

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Luke 1: 57-66, 80

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child  
she gave birth to a son.  
Her neighbors and relatives heard  
that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her,  
and they rejoiced with her.  
When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child,  
they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,  
but his mother said in reply,  
"No. He will be called John."  
But they answered her,  
"There is no one among your relatives who has this name."  
So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.  
He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name,"  
and all were amazed.  
Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed,  
and he spoke blessing God.  
Then fear came upon all their neighbors,  
and all these matters were discussed  
throughout the hill country of Judea.  
All who heard these things took them to heart, saying,  
"What, then, will this child be?"  
For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.  
The child grew and became strong in spirit,  
and he was in the desert until the day  
of his manifestation to Israel.

### ***Faith Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Children:** How does Jesus show you what it means to live as child of God?

**Teens:** How does the hand of God guide your daily living?

**Adults:** We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God's word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God's word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God's presence (Contemplatio): Notice God's presence and be still, surrounded by God's love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
As we leave here today,  
be with us in all our comings and goings,  
and in all that we say and do.  
We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
Amen.