

**Scripture:** Ten Commandments (Deut. 5) & Luke 1:1-15  
**Singing:** 251:1-3 – 384:4-5 – 448:1-2 – 330:1 – 431:4 – 425:3, 5, 6

**GLAD TIDINGS OF GOD’S GRACE**

I. Made known in *a name* II. Made sure in a *sign*

I. GLAD TIDINGS OF GOD’S GRACE AS MADE KNOWN IN NAMES

A. The Bible stories are not ‘just’ stories but revelations of God

1. Focus of Genesis 3

2. Focus of Luke 1 (compare Luke 1:45; 1:54-55; 1:68-70)

B. Luke recorded God’s fulfilment of His gracious promises to come

1. What does the angel visiting Zachariah proclaim? (vs.19)

a. hope to a ‘hopeless’ yet godly couple (vs. 7, 18)

● consider meaning of their names

● consider the trying providence

b. prayers of faith may be long in being answered (Ps. 27:13-14)

c. God’s answer far beyond expectation (14-17)

C. The angel announced John’s preaching: vs. 16-17

1. How was John’s preaching ‘gracious?’ (Luke 3:1-18)

a. it what his preaching addressed: *repentance from sin*

b. in what his preaching did: *turn and make ready for the Lord*

## II. GLAD TIDINGS OF A GRACIOUS GOD IS MADE SURE IN A SIGN

A. Zechariah finds it impossible to believe such *glad tidings* (vs. 18)

1. What competes with faith in God's revelations?

2. How is John's struggle still found today?

B. God rebuked Zachariah with a peculiar sign: *a silence that spoke!*

1. Zacharias' sign was a *rebuke – chastisement for his unbelief*

2. Yet from vs. 20b it appears as a sign to confirm God's message

a. God gave signs not to judge but to encourage wobbly faith

C. God appointed sign(s) are to assist our weak faith in His promised grace

1. Holy Baptism is *God's sign* to us/children

2. What is the *message* of the sign of Holy Baptism of a child?

Reflection: *Do we – our children grow up with balance of Law and Gospel?*