The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24) (ABC RCL)
Luke 1:57-80 (NRSV)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Glor-y to you, Lord Christ.

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.

60 But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” 61 They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” 62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.

63 He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill coun-
try of Ju-de-a. All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child be-come?”

For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechari-ah was filled with the Ho-ly Spir-it and spoke this proph-e - cy: “Bles-

sed be the Lord God of Is - ra - el, for he has looked favorably on his people and re-deemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his ser-vant Da-vid, as he spoke through the

mouth of his ho - ly proph-ets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the

hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has re-mem-

bered his ho-ly cov-e-nant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we,

being rescued from the hands of our ene-mies, might serve him with-out fear, in holiness and right -
eousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins. 78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break

up on us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet

into the way of peace."

80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the
day he appeared publicly to Israel.

 Yah The Gospel of the Lord. Re Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Prepared by William G. Gartig May 28, 2010