

## This Day: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June

### Opening Prayer

O Lord, we often feel that we have nothing to give, feel drained of enthusiasm, lacking confidence in our ability and little idea of what to do next. When we feel like this show us afresh the richness of your creation and your joy in what your people can do, what we can do. Give us encouragement to try, courage to try something new and perseverance to try again when we fail. Amen

### Reading: Luke 1 verses 57 – 66, 80

#### **The Birth of John the Baptist**

57 The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbours and relatives heard how wonderfully good the Lord had been to her, and they all rejoiced with her. 59 When the baby was a week old, they came to circumcise him, and they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. 60 But his mother said, "No! His name is to be John." 61 They said to her, "But you don't have any relative with that name!" 62 Then they made signs to his father, asking him what name he would like the boy to have. 63 Zechariah asked for a writing pad and wrote, "His name is John." How surprised they all were! 64 At that moment Zechariah was able to speak again, and he started praising God. 65 The neighbours were all filled with fear, and the news about these things spread through all the hill country of Judea. 66 Everyone who heard of it thought about it and asked, "What is this child going to be?" For it was plain that the Lord's power was upon him. 80 The child grew and developed in body and spirit. He lived in the desert until the day when he appeared publicly to the people of Israel.

### StF 73

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| 1 Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,<br>in every part with praise,<br>that my whole being may proclaim<br>thy being and thy ways.   | 4 Fill every part of me with praise ;<br>let all my being speak<br>of thee and of thy love, O Lord,<br>poor though I be and weak. |
| 2 Not for the lip of praise alone<br>nor e'en the praising heart<br>I ask, but for a life made up<br>of praise in every part :     | 5 So shalt thou, gracious Lord, from me<br>receive the glory due ;<br>and so shall I begin on earth<br>the song for ever new.     |
| 3 Praise in the common things of life,<br>its goings out and in ;<br>praise in each duty and each deed,<br>however small and mean. | 6 So shall no part of day or night<br>from sacredness be free ;<br>but all my life, in every step,<br>be fellowship with thee.    |

Horatius N. Bonar (1808–1889)

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## **Psalm 80 verses 1 – 7**

### **Restore Us, O God**

1 Listen to us, O Shepherd of Israel; hear us, leader of your flock. Seated on your throne above the winged creatures, 2 reveal yourself to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Show us your strength; come and save us! 3 Bring us back, O God! Show us your mercy, and we will be saved! 4 How much longer, LORD God Almighty, will you be angry with your people's prayers? 5 You have given us sorrow to eat, a large cup of tears to drink. 6 You let the surrounding nations fight over our land; our enemies insult us. 7 Bring us back, Almighty God! Show us your mercy, and we will be saved!

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you know what it feels like to face danger and difficulties, to be troubled by what the immediate future held in store for you but you never lost faith in your Father's love for you. You understand how easily we can become anxious about what the future hold in store for us so we ask that we can face what ever comes with confidences in your Father's love for us will never leave us or forsake us  
Amen