In the days of Her-od, king of Ju-de-a, there was a priest named Zach-a-ri-as, and he had a wife and her name was E-liz-a-beth.
They were both right-eous in the sight of God, walking blame-less-ly in all the command-ments and require-ments of the Lord.

But they had no child, be-cause E-liz-a-beth was bar-ren, and they were both ad-vanced in years.
Now it hap-pened that while he was per-form-ing his priest-ly ser-vice be-fore God in the ap-point-ed or-der of his di-vi-sion,
an an-gel of the Lord ap-peared to him, stand-ing to the right of the al-tar of in-cense.
Zach-ar-i-as was troubled when he saw the an-gel, and fear gripped him. But the an-gel said to him, “Do not be a-fraid, Zach-ar-i-as, for your pe-ti-tion has been heard, and your wife E-liz-a-beth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.
"It is he who will go as a fore-run-ner be-
fore Him in the spir-it and pow-er
of E-li-jah so as to make read-y a
peo-ple pre-pared
for the Lord."

After these
days E-liz-a-beth
his wife be-came
preg-nant, and
she kept her-self
in se-clus-ion for
five months, say-ing,
"This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men."

Now at this time Mary a-rose and went in a hurry to the hill country and entered the house of Zach-ar-i-as and greeted E-liz-a-beth.
When E-liz-a-beth heard Mar-y’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and E-liz-a-beth was filled with the Ho-ly Spir-it.

And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Bless-ed are you a-mong wo-men!”
And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?

For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.
Now the time had come for E-liz-a-beth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son.

Her neigh-bors and her rel-a-tives heard that the Lord had dis-played His great mer-cy to-ward her; and they were re-joic-ing with her.