

Recite this prayer from memory at
St. John's Eve at Mary Our Queen on June 24th to
receive the prestigious Benedictus Award.



Canticle of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for He has visited and brought redemption to His people.

He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David His servant,
even as He promised through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old:
salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our fathers and to be mindful of His holy covenant
and of the oath He swore to Abraham our father,
and to grant us that, rescued from the hand of enemies,
without fear we might worship Him in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways,
to give His people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God by which the Daybreak from on high will visit us
to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.

The Canticle of Zechariah (or "Benedictus") is from Luke 1:68-79. It takes its title from the opening line of the Latin Vulgate translation by St. Jerome: "Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel" (Blessed be the Lord, God of Israel). A popular passage since ancient times in the Church, it is believed to have been first introduced into daily prayer by St. Benedict of Nursia (c. 480-543 or 547). In the Roman Breviary, it is sung at Lauds (Morning Prayer). It is one of three canticles in the Bible- the other two being the Virgin Mary's "Magnificat" (Luke 1:46-55) and Simeon's "Nunc Dimittis" (Luke 2:29-32).