

Main Service



1 Group

Prepare the Way Title

John 1:29-34

²⁹The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' ³¹I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." ³²John testified

John 1:29-34

saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. ³³I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'³

John 1:29-34

⁴I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Luke 1:1-4

¹Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive

Luke 1:1-4

order, most excellent Theophilus; ⁴so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Theme of Luke: Jesus as the Son of Man

Luke 1:5-13

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth

Luke 1:5-13

was barren, and they were both advanced in years.
⁸Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, ⁹according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer

Luke 1:5-13

outside at the hour of the incense offering. ¹¹And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹²Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him.

Luke 1:5-13

¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Theme of Luke: Jesus as the Son of Man

Theme: God undeniably validates John so that we might confidently believe in Jesus.

Scene 1: The Setting (5-7)

Leviticus 21:7

⁷They shall not take a woman who is profaned by harlotry, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for he is holy to his God.

Leviticus 21:13-15

¹³He shall take a wife in her virginity. ¹⁴A widow, or a divorced woman, or one who is profaned by harlotry, these he may not take; but rather he is to marry a virgin of his own people, ¹⁵so that he will not profane his offspring among his people; for I am the LORD who sanctifies him.' "

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Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Theme of Luke: Jesus as the Son of Man

Theme: God undeniably validates John so that we might confidently believe in Jesus.

Scene 1: The Setting (5-7)

Deuteronomy 28:4

4“Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.

Deuteronomy 28:15

¹⁵“But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

Deuteronomy 28:18

¹⁸“Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Theme of Luke: Jesus as the Son of Man

Theme: God undeniably validates John so that we might confidently believe in Jesus.

Scene 1: The Setting (5-7)

John 9:1-3

¹As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.

²And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Romans 8:28

²⁸And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Scene 1: The Setting (5-7)

Scene 2: The Announcement (8-17)

Detail 1: A Providential Assignment (8-10)

Detail 2: A Prayerful Crowd (11)

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Darrell Bock: In first-century Judaism the time of the evening offering...was altered so that preparations for it started around 2:30 in the afternoon. Taken to the altar about an hour later, this offering coincided with the time of evening prayer at the temple, so that it was often well attended.

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

John MacArthur: The ascending, aromatic cloud of incense smoke symbolized the people's prayers of repentance, of confession and thanksgiving, for the coming of Messiah, the peace of Jerusalem, the nation, the family, salvation, and for the coming kingdom.



Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

William Hendrickson: "The people, gathered "outside" the sanctuary but "inside" its courts are also praying, in a prostrate position and with outstretched hands. Then they wait for Zechariah to return from the altar of incense and to proceed eastward to the steps in the front of the sanctuary (Holy Place and Holy of Holies). On these steps Zechariah, accompanied by other priests, is expected to pronounce the Aaronic blessing on the people. This benediction will be followed by songs of praise, public offerings, etc."

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Scene 1: The Setting (5-7)

Scene 2: The Announcement (8-17)

Detail 1: A Providential Assignment (8-10)

Detail 2: A Prayerful Crowd (11)

Detail 3: An Angelic Announcement (11-17)

Troubled- to cause inward turmoil, stir up, disturb, unsettle, throw into confusion (BDAG)

Luke 2:9

⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

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Scene 1: The Setting (5-7)

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Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Darrell Bock: The father usually names a child...God's naming a child shows that the child is important to his work.

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

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Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Listen to the very last words of Malachi's prophecy in Malachi 4:5-6:

5 “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.

6 “He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Scene 1: The Setting (5-7)

Scene 2: The Announcement (8-17)

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Mark 1:14-15

¹⁴Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Prepare the Way of the Lord - Part 1

Luke 1:5-25

Conclusion:

1. Marvel at God's Sovereign Grace
2. Be Strengthened in Your Faith