The Song of Luke

An Oratorio based on the Infancy Narrative of Jesus
according to the Gospel of Luke

by Cyprian Consiglio, OSB Cam.

Final version edited by Daniel J. Dewig

Originally commissioned by the Animas Music Festival of Durango, Colorado
under the direction of John Pennington, Ph.D.
for the Durango Choral Society
under the direction of Linda Mack, Ph.D.
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# The Song of Luke

**HARP, PIANO, VIBRAPHONE EDITION**

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In the days of King Herod of Judea, There was a

priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of

Abijah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron,
and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.
advanced in years. Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then,
when the whole company of people was praying outside at the

hour of the incense offering, the angel of the

Lord appeared to him standing at the right of the altar of

incense. Zech - a - i - ah was troubled by what he saw,
and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him,

"Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the
sight of the Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink.

He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb,

and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their
God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of El - li - jah to turn the hearts of fathers to children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to pre - pare a people fit for the Lord. Then Zechariah
said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For

I am an old man—and my wife is advanced in

years." Then the angel said to him in reply,

"I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was
sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But

now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these

things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.
Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out he was unable to speak to them, and they realized he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to
them, but remained mute. Then, when his days of ministry
were completed, he went home. After this time
his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for
five months saying, "So has the Lord done for me
ELIZABETH
(HARP)
at a time when he has seen fit to take away my dis...

grace before others.
In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.
Ma - ry. And com - ing to her he said,

"Hail, fav - ored one! The Lord is with you!"

But she was great - ly trou - bled at what was said and pon - dered what sort of greet - ing this might be.

Then the an - gel said to her, "Do not be a - fraid, O Ma - ry,"
for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and

bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great

and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will

give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the
house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will rest upon you..."
16
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be

born will be called Holy, the Son of God. And behold, El-

17
izabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age,

and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for no-

thing will be im-
poss - i - ble for God." Ma - ry said, "Be hold, I am the
hand - maid of the Lord. May it be done to me ac - cord - ing to your word."
4b. Blessed Are You, 1

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4c. Annunciation
Second Divertissement, Song of Luke

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(The Visitation)

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's

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greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth

filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said

"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit

(HARP) rolled
of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the
mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound
of your greeting reached my ear, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
5b. Blessed Are You, 2

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Immediately to 5c
5d. The Visitation
Third Divertissement, Song of Luke

Andante, light and brisk

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When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy toward her and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise him they called him John.
cise the child, they were going to call him Zechariyah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No, Elizabeth, he will be called John. But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives that has this name!"
So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called.

He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue was freed, and he spoke blessing God.
6b. Blessed Are You, 3

Slightly faster than before.

(VIBRAPHONE)

slower \( \frac{\text{D}}{\text{B}} = 82 \)

(HARP)

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6d. The Canticle of Zechariah

(Luke 68-79)

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In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled,
each to their own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed who was with child. While
they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth
to her first born son. She wrapped him swaddling clothes and laid him in a
manager, because there was no room for them in the inn.
Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields, and
keep ing the night watch over the flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to

them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were

struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be a-

fraid! For behold I bring to you good news of great joy that will be for all
people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign to you:
you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a

man-ger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly
host with the angel, praising God, and saying,
7d. The Nativity
Fourth Divertissement, Song of Luke

Largo \( \frac{50}{\text{mp throughout}} \)

Piano

Pno.

Pno.

Pno.

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When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, in accordance with the dictate of the law of the Lord.
Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.

This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before...
fore he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the

temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to per-

form the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his

arms and bless’d God. The child’s father and mother were amazed at

63
what was said of him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary:

ry his mother:

Immediately to 8b.
8c. Canticle of Simeon
(Lk 2:29-32)

\( \text{\textbf{Harp}} \)

\( \text{\textbf{Harp}} \)

\( \text{\textbf{Harp}} \)

\( \text{\textbf{Harp}} \)

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9b. Blessed Are You - Instrumental
(Final Reprise)

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10. A Light Will Shine

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