1) While executing as priest the sacred office

in the divine Temple, offering up the people's prayers

unto the Lord All-compassionate and Benefactor,

the most divine Zacharias then beheld

a divine and holy Angel crying unto him:

Thy supplication and prayer is heard; take heart, O Elder,

and doubt me not, for thou shalt beget a child,

the Lord's divine Forerunner, who in truth

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is far greater than any of woman born;
in the pow'r of E-li-as,
he shall go before the promised Christ.

2) Thou seemest strange in thy countenance and manner;
strange to me be all these words and tidings thou hast brought;
so Zacharias replied to him. For I came hither
to ask salvation for all the people's sake,
not indeed to have a child as thou hast said to me.

I find thee contrary to the things which I have asked for;
and I surmise that thou tell est not the truth,

for how shall what thou say est be con firmed?

For Eliz a beth suf freth from bar ren ness;

as for me, as thou se(e) est,

I am ver y far ad vanced in years.

3) Where-fore dost thou doubt my words, O Zacha ri as?

Where-fore dost thou say I bring false tid ings un to thee?

I am an Arch an gel of our God, and stand be fore thee
to tell thee all that hath been com mand ed me;
and since thou hast not believed but rather disbelieved,

thou shalt be dumb and shalt speak no more till thou beholdest

that what I say, God Himself shall bring to pass;

and when Elizabeth shall bear for thee

the great voice of the Word, the Forerunner John,

with thy tongue speaking plainly,

thou shalt bless the God of Israel.