



Advent Day 23 (written by Deb Bakken)

Tablet

Luke 1:63

He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." (NIV 1984)

How often do you think about your sins? Zechariah the priest had to think about his sins all the time. Every time he wanted to say something, he had to run for his tablet. Or maybe he had it in his pocket. No, that's not too likely, since it was probably made of soft

clay in a wooden frame, and it weighed ten pounds! The metal stylus he would have used to make his mark would have been a dangerous weapon if he dropped it on his bare toes. Zechariah probably didn't get out much, and by and by, because of the inconvenience, even his days at home grew pretty quiet and pretty lonely. All because of his one little sin: not trusting the Word of God.

How often do you think about forgiveness? One day, the quiet in Zechariah's house was broken by the crying of a baby—his son, John the Baptist. The silence ended for good when Zechariah wrote the baby's name, John, on the tablet. It was the last message Zechariah had to write. When his voice came back, it was the sign from God that his sin was forgiven.

As often as Zechariah had remembered his sin, we can imagine just as often he remembered the feeling of knowing he was forgiven. We get the same feeling every time the pastor tells us our sins are forgiven and every time we read the Gospel.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for your forgiveness in Jesus. Remind us often, so we can always be joyful. Amen.