

MY HYMN THIS WEEK.

KEEP thou my way O Lord ;
Myself I cannot guide ;
Nor dare I trust my steps
One moment from Thy side.

MY VERSES THIS WEEK.

MONDAY—Luke 1 : 13.
TUESDAY—Luke 1 : 68.
WEDNESDAY—Mal. 3 : 1.
THURSDAY—Job 11 : 13, 14.
FRIDAY—Luke 3 : 4.
SATURDAY—1 Sam. 7 : 3.
SABBATH—Luke 1 : 76.

MY LESSON STORY THIS WEEK.

TWO Sundays ago our lesson story was about the birth of the baby Jesus, and this week it is about another baby who was going to be born. This baby was born before Jesus, and though not in just the same place, it was in the same country of Palestine, in the hill country of Judea. Herod the Great was the king there, and there lived a man named Zacharias, and his wife Elisabeth. They were both good people who loved God, and walked in his ways. They had lived together for many years, and now were getting pretty old, and did not have any children. Zacharias was a priest, and when his turn came, he burned incense in the temple. This incense was made of sweet-smelling spices, and as it burned and the flames went up, it was a sign that the prayers of the people went up to God. Zacharias must have prayed for a son, for one day as he was burning this incense in the Holy Place, and the people were praying outside in the courts, an angel came to him and stood on the right side of the altar of incense. When Zacharias saw him he was afraid, but the angel said : "Fear not, Zacharias, for thy prayer is heard, and you shall have a son, and shall call him John." He told him too that this son would bring him joy and gladness, and many would rejoice at his birth, for he was to be the forerunner of Jesus, that meant, he was to come before Jesus, and tell the people who had done wrong, to repent. In eastern countries when a king was coming, people were sent before him to make the roads smooth and straight. John was sent to prepare the peoples' hearts for the coming of King Jesus. We should prepare our hearts so that Jesus may live in them.

MY QUESTIONS THIS WEEK

1. What were the names of the parents of John ?
2. What was John sent to do ?
3. How was the way prepared in the East when a king was coming ?
4. How can I prepare my heart for Jesus ?

MY PRAYER THIS WEEK.

Oh, God ! prepare my heart so that it may be always
ready for Jesus.