

# The Nativity of St John the Baptist

24<sup>th</sup> June 2020



## OPENING HYMN

The great forerunner of the morn,  
The herald of the Word is born;  
And faithful hearts shall never fail  
With thanks and praise his light to hail.

With heavenly message Gabriel came,  
That John should be the herald's name,  
And with prophetic utterance told  
His actions great and manifold.

His mighty deeds exalt his fame  
To greater than a prophet's name,  
Of woman born shall never be  
A greater prophet than was he.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three-in-One,  
Praise, honour, might and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-6

*I will make you the light of the nations.*

PSALM RESPONSE: I thank you for the wonder of my being.

## SECOND READING: Acts 13:22-26

*Jesus, whose coming was heralded by John.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! As for you, little child, you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.  
You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare His ways before Him. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-66, 80

*His name is John.*

## NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, (*as we say the words in italics, we bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### OFFERTORY

Lo! a swift herald, from the skies descending, bears to thy father promise of thy greatness;  
How he shall name thee, what thy future story, duly revealing.

Scarcely believing message so transcendent, him for a season power of speech forsaketh,  
Till, at thy wondrous birth, again returneth voice to the voiceless.

Thou, in thy mother's womb all darkly cradled, knewest thy Monarch, biding in His chamber,  
Whence the two parents, through their children's merits, mysteries utter'd.

#### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*As the congregation are unable to receive Holy Communion at this time, we are invited to pray a prayer of Spiritual Communion:*

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

#### HOLY COMMUNION

O may the virtue of thine intercession,  
All stony hardness from our hearts expelling,  
Smooth the rough places, and the crooked straighten  
Here in the desert.

Thus may our gracious Maker and Redeemer,  
Seeking a station for His hallow'd footsteps,  
Find, when He cometh, temples undefiled,  
Meet to receive Him.

Now as the Angels celebrate Thy praises,  
Godhead essential, Trinity co-equal ;  
Spare Thy redeem'd ones, as they bow before Thee,  
Pardon imploring. Amen.

#### RECESSIONAL HYMN

By all Your saints still striving, for all Your saints at rest,  
Your holy name, O Jesus, for evermore be blessed.  
You rose, our King victorious, that they might wear the crown  
And ever shine in splendour reflected from Your throne.

All praise for John the Baptist, forerunner of the Word,  
Our true Elijah, making a highway for the Lord.  
The last and greatest prophet, he saw the dawning ray  
Of light that grows in splendour until the perfect day.

Then let us praise the Father and worship God the Son  
And sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One,  
Till all the ransomed number who stand before the throne  
Ascribe all pow'r and glory and praise to God alone.

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