

Birth of John the Baptist

Vespers

Leader: O Lord, open my lips.

All: And my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.
Alleluia.

Hymn

Antiphon 1. He shall go before the Lord + in the spirit and power of Elijah, * to prepare for the Lord a perfect people.
Alleluia.

Psalm 1

Happy are they who reject the advice of the wicked, + who do not walk the paths that sinners tread, * nor keep company with those who do evil.

Happy are they who delight in the law of God Most High, * and murmur God's precepts day and night.

They are like trees planted near running water + that bear fruit in season and whose leaves never wither; * whatever they do will prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so! * They are like chaff blown about by the wind.

They who do evil will not stand at the Judgment, * nor will sinners in the assembly of the upright.

For the Lord watches over the way of the upright, * but the path of the wicked is doomed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever.
Amen.

Antiphon. He shall go before the Lord + in the spirit and
power of Elijah, * to prepare for the Lord a perfect people.
Alleluia.

Antiphon 2. John, the forerunner of the Lord, * was born of
an elderly and childless couple. Alleluia.

Psalm 111

I will thank the Lord with all my heart, * as the just and their
assembly gather.

Great are the works of the Lord; * to be pondered by all who
love them.

Majestic and splendid God's work; * the justice of God stands
forever.

We remember the wonders of God * who is full of
compassion and love;

giving food to those who are faithful, * who keep the
covenant ever in mind.

God has shown might to the people * by giving them the lands
of the nations.

God's works are justice and truth; * God's precepts are all of
them sure,

standing firm forever and ever: * God's word is honest and true.

The Most High freed the people, + and made the covenant
which lasts forever, * holy and awesome God's name.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom; + all who do so
prove themselves wise. * God's praise shall last forever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever, Amen.

Antiphon. John, the forerunner of the Lord, * was born of an
elderly and childless couple. Alleluia.

Antiphon 3. Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, gave birth to
John the Baptist, * and many rejoiced at his birth. Alleluia.

Psalm 112

Happy are they who fear the Lord, * who take delight in God's
commands.

Their offspring will be powerful on earth; * the children of
the upright are blessed.

Their houses will be full of wealth and riches; * their justice
endures forever.

They are light in the dark for the upright; * they are merciful,
kind and just.

Those who are good take pity and lend, * they conduct their
affairs with honor.

The just ones will never waver; * they will be remembered
forever.

They have no fear of evil news; * with firm hearts, they trust
in the Lord.

Their hearts are steadfast, they have no fear; * they will see
their foes defeated.

Open-handed, they give to the poor; + their justice endures
forever. * God will raise them to eternal glory.

The wicked see and are angry, + grind their teeth and fade away; * the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever.

Amen.

Antiphon. Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, gave birth to John the Baptist, * and many rejoiced at his birth. Alleluia.

Canticle

Antiphon. He will be great in the eyes of the Lord, + and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit * from his mother's womb. Alleluia.

Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, + who has blessed us in Christ * with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

God chose us in Christ before the world began, * that we might be holy and blameless before God in love.

We were predestined to be God's adopted children * through Jesus Christ;

such was the will and pleasure of God, + that all might praise the splendid favor, * bestowed on us in Christ.

In Him and through his blood we have been redeemed, + and our sins forgiven, * so infinitely generous is God's favor to us.

The Most High has given us wisdom + to understand fully the mystery, * the plan God was pleased to decree in Christ.

A plan to be carried out in Christ in the fullness of time, + to bring all things into one in Him, * things in heaven and on earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon. He will be great in the eyes of the Lord, + and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit * from his mother's womb. Alleluia.

Reading

Response to Reading

Reader: People of God, this Good News is about our salvation in Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

All: We praise you, we bless you, we thank you, O God. Alleluia.

Magnificat

Antiphon. What did you go to the desert to see? A prophet? Yes, and more than a prophet, for this is he who will prepare the way.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed.

You, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm, and scattered the proud in their conceit.

You cast down the mighty from their thrones, you lift up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things, and have sent the rich away with nothing.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember your promise of mercy, the promise made to our forebears, to Sarah, Abraham, and their heirs forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon. What did you go to the desert to see? A prophet? Yes, and more than a prophet, for this is he who will prepare the way.

Intercessory Prayer

10 Minutes of Silence

Closing Prayer

Salve Regina