



NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

24 June 2020

Text in bold print is recited by the whole Community.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

The Greeting

Presider

Blessed are you, holy and living One,
you send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Amen. Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity

Presider

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people the wisdom to see your purpose, and the openness to hear your will, so that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Reader

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 85.7-13

Psalmist

⁷ Show us your mercy, O Lord, *

and grant us your salvation.

⁸ I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying, *

**for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.**

⁹ Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, *

that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met together; *

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

- ¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- ¹² Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness shall go before you, *
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

The Gospel: Luke 1.57-80

Before the Gospel the Deacon says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

After the Gospel the Deacon says

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany of Healing

Leader of the Prayers

We gather in your presence, O God;

**in our need and bringing with us
the needs of the world.**

We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus;

for you know in him our humanity.

We come with our faith and with our doubts;

we come with our hopes and with our fears.

We come as we are, because you invite us to come;

and you have promised never to turn us away.

Grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured or disabled, that they may be made whole: Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance and to all who are lonely, anxious or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence: Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

Mend broken relationships and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit: Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

Bless physicians, nurses and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience: Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

Give wholeness of life to those for whom we offer our prayers this day (*during the silence we name or remember those for whom we are praying*): Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by your grace and consolation those who are bereaved (*during the silence we name or remember those for whom we are praying*): Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin --- in our lives, in our nations and in the world: Lord of life, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Lord who does wonders:
you have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:
and in your light we see light.

Hear us, O Lord of life:
heal us and make us whole.

Compassionate God, support and strengthen all those who reach out in love, concern and prayer for the sick and distressed. In their acts of compassion, may they know that they are your instruments. In their concerns and fears, may they know your peace. In their faithful serving, may they know your steadfast love. May they not grow weary or faint-hearted, for your mercy's sake. **Amen.**

Glory to God,
from whom all love flows,
glory to Jesus,
who showed us his love through suffering,
glory to the Holy Spirit,
who brings light to the darkest places. Amen.

The Exchange of the Peace

Presider

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider

Let us pray.

God of our salvation, accept all we offer you this day, and free us to worship you without fear, in holiness and righteousness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honour, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider

You give your people angels' food
and sent us bread from heaven,

**that we might learn, O God, that it is your word
which sustains all those who trust in you.**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion

As the Presider and Deacon receive Communion, you are invited to pray silently or quietly the following prayer.

In union, O God, with all your faithful gathered wherever the eucharist is celebrated this day, I offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption given to us through the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I pray you come into my heart, my soul and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you. May I serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your promised reign of justice and peace; through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit. **Amen.**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Prayer after Communion

Presider

Let us pray.

We thank you, Lord, for your word and your table which give us the knowledge of salvation. Your compassion has broken on us like the dawn; guide now our feet into the way of peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Doxology

Presider

Glory to God, **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace as prophets of the Most High;
go before the Lord to prepare his ways.
Thanks be to God.