# THE BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST - SOLEMNITY

#### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

Glory and praise to our God Who alone gives light to our days Many are the blessings He bears To those who trust in His ways

We, the daughters and sons of Him Who built the valleys and plains Praise the wonders our God has done In every heart that sings

In His wisdom, He strengthens us Like gold that's tested in fire Though the power of sin prevails Our Lord is there to save

Every moment of everyday Our God is waiting to save Always ready to seek the lost To answer those who pray



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

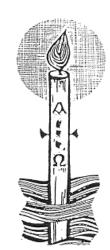
### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 49: 1-6 I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Islands, listen to me, pay attention, remotest peoples, the Lord called me before I was born, from my mother's womb he pronounced my name.

He made my mouth a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me into a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in his guiver.

He said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; while I was thinking, 'I have toiled in vain, I have exhausted myself for nothing';



and all the while my cause was with the Lord, my reward with my God. I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant,
To restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the
survivors of Israel.
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 138:1-3. 13-15 R) v. 14

### R. I thank you for the wonder of my being.

- O Lord, you search me and you know me, you know my resting and my rising, you discern my purpose from afar. You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you. (R.)
- For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother's womb.
   I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation. (R.)
- Already you knew my soul, my body held no secret from you when I was being fashioned in secret and moulded in the depths of the earth. (R.)

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Jesus, whose coming was heralded by John. 13 : 22 - 26

Paul said: 'God made David the king of our ancestors, of whom he approved in these words, "I have elected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal."

'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for you.'

The word of the Lord.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf Lk 1:76

Alleluia, alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

1:57-66.80

His name is John.

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a

kindness, they shared her joy.

Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother spoke up. 'No,' she said 'he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name', and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they were all astonished. At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God. All their neighbours were filled with awe and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea. All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew up and his spirit matured. And he lived out in the wilderness until the day he appeared openly to Israel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### **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;

(All 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 HYMN**

 Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation, thanks to your goodness this bread we offer: fruit of the earth, work of our hands, it will become the bread of life.

Blessed be God, Blessed be God, Blessed be God, forever! Amen! (2) Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation, thanks to your goodness this wine we offer: fruit of the earth, work of our hands, it will become the cup of life.

#### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

How great is our God, how great is His name! How great is our God, forever the same.

- He rolled back the waters
   of the mighty Red Sea
   And He said: "I'll never leave you
   put your trust in me".
- He sent His Son Jesus, to set us all free And He said "I'll never leave you, put your trust in me".

Great indeed are your works, O Lord now and evermore! Great indeed are your works, O Lord now and evermore!

- The universe, night and day tells of all your wonders You are our light and our life We shall praise you always
- You are the path which we tread, you will lead us onward From every corner of earth All the nations gather
- 3. You lead us all by the hand To your heav'nly Kingdom Then at the end of all time You will come in glory.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

- My soul proclaims the Lord my God, my spirit sings his praise! He looks on me, he lifts me up, and gladness fills my days.
- All nations now will share my joy, His gifts he has outpoured; His little one he has made great; I magnify the Lord.
- For those who love his holy name,
  His mercy will not die.
  His strong right arm puts down the proud
  And lifts the lowly high.
- He filled the hungry with good things, The rich he sends away.
   The promise made to Abraham is filled to endless day.
- Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat, praise God! praise God, praise God, praise God magnificat, praise God.