

# SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## ENTRANCE HYMN

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh, come then and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every Christian breast, and furnished for so great a guest! Yea, let us each our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without thy grace our souls must fade, and wither like a flower decayed.



## GLORIA

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 quiver.

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.**

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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 13:22-26  
*Jesus, whose coming was heralded by John.*

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!  
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

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

1. Take and receive O Lord my liberty  
Take all my will, my mind, my memory  
Do Thou direct, and govern all and sway  
Do what Thou wilt, command and I obey.

*Only thy grace and love on me bestow  
Possessing these all riches I forego.*

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2. All things I hold, and all I own are thine  
Thine was the gift, to thee I all resign  
Do Thou direct and govern all and sway  
Do what Thou wilt, command and I obey.

### COMMUNION HYMNS

*Make me a servant, humble and meek  
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak,  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant (x3) today.*

1. Ere you formed me in my mother's womb,  
you called me by my name.  
And you touched my mouth and appointed me  
a prophet to the world.
2. May I heal the sick and the crippled bind,  
Bring back the sheep that stray.  
May I seek the lost and the weak make strong  
With justice feed the poor.

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1. There is a river that flows from God above;  
there is a fountain that's filled with his great love.

*Come to the waters, there is a great supply;  
there is a river that shall never run dry.*

2. Wash me with water, and then I shall be clean;  
white as the new snow, if you remove my sin.
3. Plunged in the water, the tomb of our rebirth,  
so may we rise up to share in Christ's new life.
4. All who are thirsty, now hear God as he calls;  
come to the Lord's side, His life pours out for all.

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1. I will give thanks to Thee  
O Lord among the people  
I will sing praises to Thee  
among the nations.  
For Thy steadfast love is great  
It is great to the heavens  
And Thy faithfulness  
Thy faithfulness to the clouds

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens  
Let Thy glory be over all the earth  
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens  
Let Thy glory be over all the earth.*

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. God's spirit is in my heart,  
He has called me and set me apart  
This is what I have to do,  
what I have to do.

*He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,  
tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,  
tell blind people that they can see,  
and set the downtrodden free,  
and go tell ev'ryone  
the news that the Kingdom of God has come,  
and go tell everyone  
the news that God's kingdom has come.*

2. Just as the Father sent me,  
so I'm sending you out to be  
my witnesses throughout the world,  
the whole of the world.