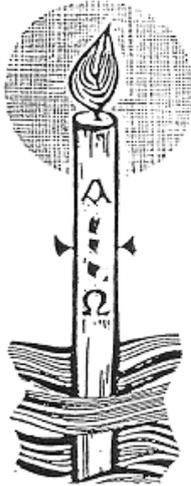


THE BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST - SOLEMNITY

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!

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 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

Take my hands and make them as your own
And use them for your kingdom here on earth
Consecrate them to your care
Anoint them for your service where
You may need your gospel to be sown.

Take my hands they speak now for my heart
And by their actions they will show their love
Guard them on their daily course
Be their strength and guiding force
To ever serve the Trinity above.

Take my hands, take my hands, O Lord.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*O Lord, I know you are near,
Standing always at my side.
You guard me from the foe,
And you lead me in ways ever lasting.*

1. Lord, you have searched my heart,
And you know when I sit and when I stand.
Your hand is upon me protecting me from death,
keeping me from harm.



2. When can I run from your love?
If I climb to the heavens, you are there.
If I fly to the sunrise or sail beyond the sea,
Still I'd find you there.
3. You know my heart and its ways,
You who formed me before I was born,
In secret of darkness, before I say the sun,
in my mother's womb.

- ~~~~~
1. In His time, in His time
He makes all things beautiful in His time
Lord, please show me ev'ryday
As you're teaching me your way
That you do just what You say in Your time.
 2. In Your time, in Your time
You make all things beautiful in Your time
Lord, my life to You I bring
May each song I have to sing
Be to You a lovely thing in Your time.
 3. There's a time, there's a time
Both for sowing and for reaping there's a time
Time for losing, time for gain
Time for joy and time for pain
Ev'ry purpose under heaven has a time.
 4. There are times, there are days
Weeks and months we cannot understand God's ways
If for years we fail to scan
What is His eternal plan
We'll remember that he can, all the time.

~~~~~  
*Jesus meek and humble of heart,  
Make my heart like yours.*

1. Come to me you who are heavily broken  
And I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke and learn from me  
I am meek and humble of heart.
2. Come to me you who are thirsting for water  
And I will give you drink  
Come and stay beneath my cross.  
From my heart flows living streams
3. Follow me why do you walk in the darkness?  
When I'm the light of life?  
Come to where my Father dwells  
I'm the Way, the Truth and the Life.

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*I now no longer live; Christ, my Lord, lives in me.  
Christ forever my joy, I must walk in His love.*

1. Christ in my mind, my life, my heart.  
Christ to the world with joy I must bring.
2. Christ on my right, my left, around.  
Christ to the world with joy I must bring.
3. Christ is my way, my peace, my light.  
Christ to the world with joy I must bring.
4. Christ my rock, my shield, my strength.  
Christ to the world with joy I must bring.
5. Christ is my Lord, my God, my all.  
Christ to the world with joy I must bring.