

## ☩ Morning Prayer

Thursday, 24 June 2021

### The Birth of John the Baptist

#### Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

All that we may behold your power and glory.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

In your tender compassion

the dawn from on high is breaking upon us

to dispel the lingering shadows of night.

As we look for your coming among us this day,

open our eyes to behold your presence

and strengthen our hands to do your will,

that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

a suitable hymn, or A Song of the King's Glory

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, <sup>□</sup>

the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

2 For he has founded it upon the seas <sup>□</sup>

and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

3'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,  
or who can rise up in his holy place?'

4'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,  
nor sworn an oath to a lie;

5'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,  
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

6Such is the company of those who seek him,  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

7Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.

8'Who is the King of glory?'  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

9Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.

10'Who is this King of glory?'  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.'

Psalm 24

AllGlory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

This opening prayer may be said

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.  
All Amen.

## The Word of God

### Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

### Psalm 50

Refrain: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

1 The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken  
and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth;  
our God comes and will not keep silence.

3 Consuming fire goes out before him  
and a mighty tempest stirs about him.

4 He calls the heaven above,  
and the earth, that he may judge his people:

5 'Gather to me my faithful,  
who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.'

6 Let the heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge. R

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak:  
'I will testify against you, O Israel;  
for I am God, your God.

8 'I will not reprove you for your sacrifices,  
for your burnt offerings are always before me.

9 'I will take no bull out of your house,<sup>□</sup>  
nor he-goat out of your folds,

10 'For all the beasts of the forest are mine,<sup>□</sup>  
the cattle upon a thousand hills.

11 'I know every bird of the mountains<sup>□</sup>  
and the insect of the field is mine.

12 'If I were hungry, I would not tell you,<sup>□</sup>  
for the whole world is mine and all that fills it.

13 'Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls,<sup>□</sup>  
or drink the blood of goats?

14 'Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving<sup>□</sup>  
and fulfil your vows to God Most High.

15 'Call upon me in the day of trouble;<sup>□</sup>  
I will deliver you and you shall honour me.' R

16 But to the wicked, says God:<sup>□</sup>  
'Why do you recite my statutes  
and take my covenant upon your lips,

17 'Since you refuse to be disciplined<sup>□</sup>  
and have cast my words behind you?

18 'When you saw a thief, you made friends with him<sup>□</sup>  
and you threw in your lot with adulterers.

19 'You have loosed your lips for evil<sup>□</sup>  
and harnessed your tongue to deceit.

20 'You sit and speak evil of your brother;<sup>□</sup>  
you slander your own mother's son.

21 'These things have you done, and should I keep silence?<sup>□</sup>  
Did you think that I am even such a one as yourself?

22 'But no, I must reprove you,<sup>□</sup>  
and set before your eyes the things that you have done.

23 'You that forget God, consider this well,<sup>□</sup>

lest I tear you apart and there is none to deliver you.

24 'Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me' □

and to those who keep my way

will I show the salvation of God.'

Refrain: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Mighty God,

dwelling in unapproachable light,

forgive our vain attempts to appease you,

and show us your full salvation

in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

## Psalm 149

Refrain: Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth.

1 Alleluia.

O sing to the Lord a new song; □

sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in their maker; □

let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

3 Let them praise his name in the dance; □

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and lyre.

4 For the Lord has pleasure in his people □

and adorns the poor with salvation. R

5 Let the faithful be joyful in glory; □

let them rejoice in their ranks,

6 With the praises of God in their mouths □

and a two-edged sword in their hands;

7 To execute vengeance on the nations □

and punishment on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings in chains □

and their nobles with fetters of iron;

9 To execute on them the judgement decreed: □

such honour have all his faithful servants.

Alleluia.

Refrain: Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth.

Glorious and redeeming God,  
give us hearts to praise you all our days  
and wills to reject the world's deceits,  
that we may bind the evils of our age  
and proclaim the good news of salvation  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle.

## **Ecclesiasticus 48.1-10**

Then Elijah arose, a prophet like fire,  
and his word burned like a torch.

He brought a famine upon them,  
and by his zeal he made them few in number.

By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens,  
and also three times brought down fire.

How glorious you were, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!

Whose glory is equal to yours?

You raised a corpse from death  
and from Hades, by the word of the Most High.

You sent kings down to destruction,  
and famous men, from their sickbeds.

You heard rebuke at Sinai  
and judgements of vengeance at Horeb.

You anointed kings to inflict retribution,  
and prophets to succeed you.

You were taken up by a whirlwind of fire,

in a chariot with horses of fire.

At the appointed time, it is written, you are destined  
to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury,  
to turn the hearts of parents to their children,  
and to restore the tribes of Jacob.

or [Malachi 3.1-6](#)

## Canticle

The following, or another suitable canticle, may be said or sung

Refrain:

All God will feed his flock like a shepherd,  
and gather the lambs in his arms.

1 Go up to a high mountain,  
herald of good tidings to Zion; <sup>□</sup>  
lift up your voice with strength,  
herald of good tidings to Jerusalem.

2 Lift up your voice, fear not; <sup>□</sup>  
say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!'

3 See, the Lord God comes with might, <sup>□</sup>  
and his arm rules for him.

4 Behold, his reward is with him, <sup>□</sup>  
and his recompense before him.

5 God will feed his flock like a shepherd, <sup>□</sup>  
and gather the lambs in his arms;

6 He will carry them in his breast, <sup>□</sup>  
and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40. 9-11

All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All God will feed his flock like a shepherd,  
and gather the lambs in his arms.

## Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

## Luke 3.1-17

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with



unquenchable fire.'

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,

All for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,

All for the night is far spent.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness

and put on the armour of light,

All for the day is at hand.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

and make no provision for the flesh,

All for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

from Romans 13

## Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said, or [A Song of Redemption \(page 620\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, brought forth a son;

he grew and became strong in spirit.

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, □

who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, □

born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old □

to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors, □

and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: □

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear, □

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

7And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, □

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8To give his people knowledge of salvation □

by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9In the tender compassion of our God □

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, □

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

AllGlory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

Refrain:

All Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, brought forth a son;

he grew and became strong in spirit.

## Prayers

Intercessions are offered

¶ for the day and its tasks

¶ for the world and its needs

¶ for the Church and her life

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer

(or)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty God,

by whose providence your servant John the Baptist

was wonderfully born,

and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour

by the preaching of repentance:

lead us to repent according to his preaching

and, after his example,

constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice,

and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Awaiting his coming in glory,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.

(or)

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

AllOur 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 Conclusion

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.  
AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord.  
AllThanks be to God.

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