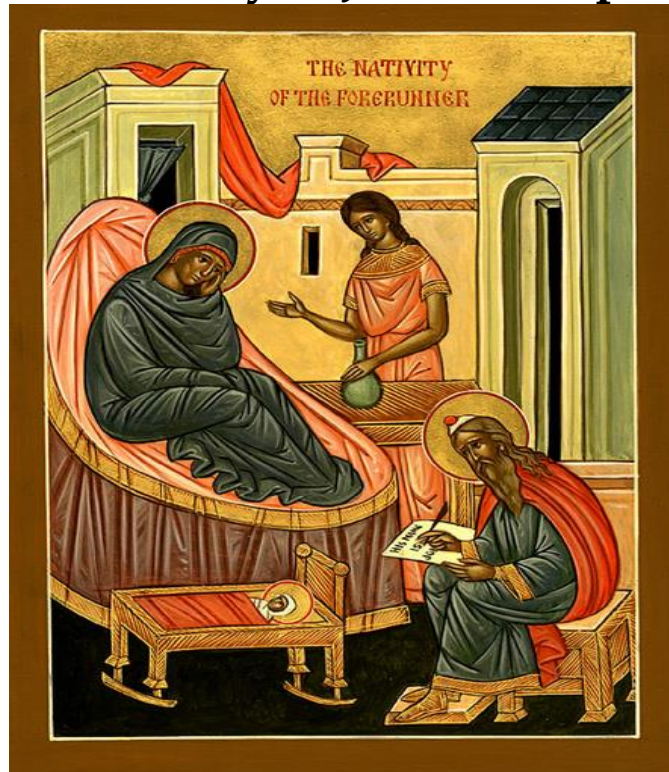


## The Nativity of John the Baptist



The Introit *Dominus me vocavit, Isaiah 49:1c-2b/Ps.92:1(2-5, 14)*

Tone VII



**Antiphon:**     The LORD called me before I was born,\*  
                  while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword,↓  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me; \*  
                  he made me a polished arrow,

**Psalm.**        It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, \*  
                  and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

[To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning \*  
                  and of your faithfulness in the night season;

On the psaltery, and on the lyre, \*  
                  and to the melody of the harp.

For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; \*  
and I shout for joy  
because of the works of your hands.

LORD, how great are your works! \*  
your thoughts are very deep.

That they may show how upright the LORD is, \*  
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.]

**Gloria Patri.** Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son↓,  
and to the Holy Spirit, \*  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever,  
for all ages of ages. Amen. **Antiphon:**

### **The Collect:**

O God, Who has made this day most worthy of our celebration because of the birth of blessed John; grant your people the grace of spiritual joys, and direct the minds of all the faithful in the way of eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, for all ages of ages. Amen.

### **The First Reading: Isaiah 49: 1-7**

Brethren: Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with

my God." And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength – he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

**The Gradual** Tollite portas, Jeremiah 1: 5, Verse 9 TONE: LAUDATE SIMPLEX



**Antiphon:** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, ↓  
and before you were born I consecrated you; \*  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

**Verse:** Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; \*  
and the LORD said to me,  
"Now I have put my words in your mouth. **Antiphon**

**The Epistle:** Acts 19:1-6

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

## The Alleluia *Eripe me de inimicis meis, Luke 1:76*

Laudate



And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.



## The Gospel: *Luke 1:57-68*

At that time...the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors 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.

## The Nicene Creed

## Offertory **Bonum est confiteri Ps 92: 11**

Tone I



The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, \*  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

### **The Prayer over the gifts:**

We heap your altar with gifts, O Lord, celebrating with fitting honor the nativity of him who announced the coming of the Savior, and, when He had come, pointed him out; through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for all ages of ages. *Amen*

### **The Preface of Saint John the Baptist (Ambrosian)**

It is truly right and just, our joy and helpful to salvation, that we, always and everywhere give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, especially on this day which you made radiant through the birth of Saint John the Baptist.

Before he was conceived you gave him his name;  
Before he was born you filled him with the Holy Spirit.  
Though still in the womb he heard the voice of Christ's mother,  
and leapt with joy to acclaim the coming of the Savior.  
Christ the Lord knew him as the Forerunner  
and among all those born of women  
he counted him as the greatest.  
And so for all the gifts you endowed this great prophet,  
we join with all the powers of heaven,  
in this their joyful hymn of praise:

*Pontifical blessing before the Pax Domini:*

*Priest:* May Almighty God, at the intercession of blessed Saint John the Baptist, whose birth you celebrate today, be pleased to give you his blessing, and grant you to experience the encouragement of him whose feast you keep.

*People:* Amen

*Priest:* May God protect you from all adversity, and cause you to bring forth the fruit of good works, by following the example of him, who before his birth set aside the barrenness of his mother, and through his birth released the tongue of his father.

*People:* Amen

*Priest:* And may the Lamb of God, Whom John proclaimed, and by Whose sacrifice you are redeemed, Himself invest you with the garments of virtue, and make you strong to imitate his innocence; that, in the glory and happiness of your eternal Fatherland, you may be united with the Lamb of God for ever.

*People:* Amen

*Priest:* May the Lord God Almighty, Whose glorious Kingdom endures for ever, be pleased to bestow these blessings upon you; and...

*Priest:* The ✠ Peace of The Lord be always with you.

*People:* And with your spirit.

## The Communion **Luke 1:76**

Tone V



And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

## The Postcommunion Collect:

May your Church, O God, rejoice at the birth of blessed John the Baptist through whom she knew the author of her own rebirth, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, for all ages of ages. Amen.

## Only Begotten, Word of God Eternal

Only begotten, Word of God eternal,  
Lord of Creation, merciful and mighty,  
Hear now your servants, when their joyful voices  
Rise to your presence.

This is your temple; here your Presence-chamber;  
Here may your servants, at the mystic banquet,  
Humbly adoring, take your Body broken,  
Drink of your Chalice.

Here for your children stands the holy laver,  
Fountain of pardon for the sins of nature,  
Cleansed by whose water springs a race anointed,  
Liegemen of Jesus.

Here in our sickness healing grace abounding,  
Light in our blindness, in our toil refreshment;  
Sin is forgiven, hope o'er fear prevailing,  
Joy over sorrow.

Hallowed this dwelling where the Lord's abiding,  
This is none other than the gate of Heaven;  
Strangers and pilgrims, seeking homes eternal,  
Pass through its portals.

Lord, we beseech you, as we throng your temple,  
By your past blessings, by your present bounty,  
Favor your children, and with tender mercy,  
Hear our petitions.

God in three Persons, Father everlasting,  
Son co-eternal, ever blessed Spirit,  
Thine be the glory, praise and adoration,  
Now and forever.

*Anonymous, circa 9th Century (Christe cunctorum Dominator alme);*