



St. Charles
Borromeo
Church

Vespers

Friday Evening Prayer

June 23, 2023

Eve of Nativity of John the Baptist



INTRODUCTION

Leader: God, + come to my assistance.

All: Lord, make haste to help me.

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

All: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

PSALMODY

Psalm 113 Praise the name of the Lord

He has cast down the mighty and has lifted up the lowly.

(Luke 1:52)

Antiphon:

Leader: Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, gave birth to a great man,

All: John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Lord.

Leader: Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!

May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!

From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

**All: High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.**

**Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?**

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.**

Antiphon:

Leader: Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah, gave birth to a
great man,

**All: John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the
Lord.**

Psalm Prayer

Lord Jesus, Word of God, surrendering the brightness of your glory you became man so that we may be raised from the dust to share your very being. May there be innumerable children of the Church to offer homage to your name from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Psalm 146 Those who trust in God know what it is to be happy

To praise God in our lives means all we do must be for his glory (Arnobius).

Antiphon:

Leader: John, the forerunner of the Lord,

All: was born of an old and childless couple.

My soul, give praise to the Lord;
I will praise the Lord all my days,
make music to my God while I live.

**Put no trust in princes,
in mortal men in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, they return to clay
and their plans that day come to nothing.**

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who alone made heaven and earth,
the seas and all they contain.

**It is he who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,**

the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

**It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon:

Leader: John, the forerunner of the Lord,

All: was born of an old and childless couple.

Psalm Prayer

God of glory and power, those who have put all their trust in you are happy indeed. Shine the brightness of your light on us, that we may love you always with a pure heart

Canticle: Ephesians 1:3-10 God our Savior

Antiphon

Leader: There is no man born of women

All: greater than John the Baptist.

Praised be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has bestowed on us in Christ
every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

**God chose us in him
before the world began
to be holy
and blameless in his sight.**

He predestined us
to be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ,
such was his will and pleasure,
that all might praise the glorious favor
he has bestowed on us in his beloved.

**In him and through his blood, we have been redeemed,
and our sins forgiven,
so immeasurably generous
is God’s favor to us.**

God has given us the wisdom
to understand fully the mystery,
the plan he was pleased
to decree in Christ.

**A plan to be carried out
in Christ, in the fullness of time,
to bring all things into one in him,
in the heavens and on earth.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Leader: There is no man born of women

All: greater than John the Baptist.

READING: Acts 13:23–23

According to his promise, God has brought forth from David’s descendants Jesus, a savior for Israel. John heralded the coming of Jesus by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. As John’s career was coming to an end, he would say, “What you suppose me to be I am not. Rather, look for one who comes after me. I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.”

Responsory

Reader: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.

All: – **Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.**

He who is to come after me existed before me.

– **Make straight his paths.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

– **Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Canticle of Mary: Luke 1:46-55

The soul rejoices in the Lord

Leader: Zechariah entered the temple of the Lord, and the angel Gabriel appeared to him,

All: **standing on the right of the altar of incense.**

My + soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon:

Leader: Zechariah entered the temple of the Lord, and the angel Gabriel appeared to him,

All: **standing on the right of the altar of incense.**

INTERCESSIONS

Reader: Let us pray joyfully to God our Father who called John the Baptist to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of Christ:

All: O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.

You called John the Baptist from his mother's womb to prepare the way of your Son,
– help us to follow in that path which the Baptist opened before the Lord Jesus.

O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.

May your Church, in imitation of the Baptist, fearlessly point out the Lamb of God,
– so that people in every age may acknowledge that the Lord comes to them.

O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.

John the Baptist did not exalt himself but acknowledged his role as forerunner of the Christ,

– teach us to acknowledge that you are the giver of all our good gifts and that we must use them in your service.

O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.

You called John the Baptist to give testimony to you by his life and even by his death,

– help us to imitate his unceasing witness to your truth.

O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.

Remember those who have died,

– give them a place of light, happiness, and peace.

O Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our 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.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

God our Father,
you raised up John the Baptist
to prepare a perfect people for Christ the Lord.
Give your Church joy in spirit
and guide those who believe in you
into the way of salvation and peace.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
– **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

If a priest or deacon presides, he dismisses the people:

The Lord be with you.
– **And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
– **Amen.**

Go in peace.
– **Thanks be to God.**

*In the absence of a priest or deacon and in individual
recitation, Evening Prayer concludes:*

Leader: May the Lord + bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.
– **Amen.**