

who announces the king - dom of hea - ven.

"Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos," page 119, sung twice

Troparion of John the Baptist - Tone 4

Proph-et and fore-run-ner of the com-ing of Christ, al-though we honor you with
 love, we can not give you wor-thy praise. Through your glo-ri-ous and ho - ly birth,
 your moth-er was freed from barrenness and your fa-ther from the loss of speech,
 and the incarnation of the Son of God is pro-claimed to the world.

Blessing of Bread, page 119

Vesper Propers, June 24

The Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

Supplement for *The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006*

"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 3, page 48

Cantor: (Tone 4) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
 (on 6) But with you is found forgiveness; for this we revere you.

Stichera of John the Baptist - Tone 4 samohlasen

When John was born, the silence of Zechariah was bro - ken. For when the Voice
 appeared, it was not proper that his father re - main si - lent. Just as disbelief
 bound the fa-ther's tongue, so now the appearance of John frees him. Having
 re-vealed himself, he preaches the good tid-ings to all. The Forerunner of Light
 and the Voice of the Word is born. and he prays for the sal - va - tion
 of our souls.

Cantor: My soul is longing for the Lord, I count on his word.
 (on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchman for daybreak.

5

To - day the Voice of the Word frees his fa - ther's voice which was lost through
 dis - be - lief, and he reveals the Church's bless - ed pos - te - ri - ty, by loos - ing
 his mother's bond of bar - ren - ness. The Lamp pre - ced - ing the Light ap - pears;
 the Star proclaims the coming of the Sun of Jus - tice who is the res - to - ra - tion
 of all and the sal - va - tion of our souls.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
 and Israel on the Lord.

4

When the time ap - proached for the Word of God to be born of a vir - gin,
 a messenger came forth from a bar - ren womb. He is the great - est born of
 wo - man and the great est of the proph - ets. Be - hold, the beginning of God's

He will be a soldier of the king dom of hea - - ven, run - ning be - fore the
 path of our God. By na - ture, he was a man, yet in in the present life he
 be came an an - gel for he wel - comed moderation in complete pu - ri - ty.
 He had a human nature but fled what was according to na - ture and strug gled
 be - yond the na - tu - ral. There - fore, let all the faithful imi tate his
 vir - tues and beg him to pray for our souls' sal - va - - - tion.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

E - liz - abeth said to the Vir - gin Ma - ry: How is it that the Mother of my
 God has come to me? You bear the King, and I, a sol - dier. You bear
 the Lawgiver, and I, a preach - er of the law. You bear the Word, and I, the voice

en - light - en those whom he cre - a - ted with his own hands ac - cord - ing
to his own im - - - age. There - fore, O La - dy whom we
al - ways praise in song, we be - seech you to in - ter - cede with Christ
for the sal - va - tion of our souls; for, as his moth - er,
you can approach him with the great - est of con - fi - dence.

Litija Litany, page 116

Aposticha, Tone 3, page 54

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...

Doxastikon of John the Baptist - Tone 8 samohlasen

To - day the voice of the proph et I - sa - iah is ful - filled in the birth of the greatest
of the proph - ets, John. He had said: Behold, I will prepare the way of the Lord.

actions is beyond our un - der - stand - ing. You were be - got - ten e - ter - nal - ly,
and con - ceived, O Lord, with - out seed. You work wonders for our sal - va - tion.
Al - might - y Lord, glo - ry to you.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

To - day the great Fore run - ner ap - pears, born from the barren womb of E - li - za beth.
He is a prophet greater than all proph - ets; there is no oth - er like him, nor has there
ev - er been. For the most won - derful Light followed the Lamp of the Fore run - ner;
the Word fol - lowed the Voice, and the Bride groom followed the bride groom's friend.
He pre - pares a special peo - ple for the Lord cleans ing them with wa - ter un - til the

com-ing of the Spir - it. He is the off spring of Ze - cha - ri - ah
 and the noble dweller in the des - ert, the preach er of re - pent - ance,
 and the pu - ri - fi - ca - tion of our sins. He announced the Good News of the
 Resurrection from the dead to those in Ha - des, and he prays for
 our souls.

Cantor: Praise the Lord all the nations; **Psalm 116**
(on 2) acclaim him all you people.

②
 O John, the Bap - ti - zer of Christ, you manifested yourself to be a fore - run - ner and
 proph-et, from the time you were in the womb. When you saw the queen coming
 to her ser - vant, you leaped for joy in the womb of your moth - er,

and you shall go be - fore him to pre - pare the way.
 There - fore, O an - gel, proph - et, a - pos - tle and sol - dier,
 fore - run - ner, bap - tiz er, preach - er of pen - ance, and guide,
 as the voice of the light of the Word, pray un - ceas - ingly for us
 who faith - ful - ly keep your mem - o - - ry.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion

O most pure Vir - gin, you are the tem - ple, the gate, the
 pal - ace, and the throne of the King. Christ, our re - deem - er
 and Lord, ap - peared through you to those who slum - bered in
 dark - ness. For he, as the Sun of Right - eous - ness, wished to

Cantor: (Tone 5) Glory...

Doxastikon

Tone 5 Bolhar

To-day E-liz-a-beth re-joices as she gives birth to the end of the prophets and the beginning of the apostles, the earthly angel and the heavenly man, the voice of the Word, the soldier and fore-runner of Christ, who leaped for joy beforehand because of the promised one and who preached before the birth of the Sun of Justice. In his old age, Zech-ariah is amazed, having cast aside the mute-ness imposed as a punishment. As the father of the Voice, he prophesies most splendidly: And you, O child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

you, the one conceived of a barren woman, according to the promise made to the elder, Zechariah. You knew she was bearing the Eternal One who was from the Father without a mother. Now implore God to have mercy on our souls.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

Zechariah did not believe the angel's word, who told that Elizabeth would conceive and bear a son. Instead he replied, "How can she give birth, for we are both advanced in years?" He was made silent by your decree because of his disbelief. To-day he sees the promised birth and his silence is ended to give way to joy.

O what a glo-ri-ous mar - vel! He shouts aloud, "Blessed is the Lord, the

God of Is-ra-el!" for he has turned to his people and brought them sal-va - tion.

He grants great mer - - cy to the world.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Baptist - Tone 6

To - day, like a shin ing star, the Lamp prepares the way for the coming of the Word

of God. To-day Ze-cha-ri - ah speaks clear - ly, which ends the silence

imposed by the an - gel; for it was not right that the fa - ther of the Voice

should re-main in si - lence, once John was born from a bar-ren womb.

With great bold-ness he comes to an-ounce the great news of sal-va - tion for all

of the world.

Cantor: (Tone 3) Now and ever...

Dogmatikon, Tone 3, page 53

Readings: Genesis 17: 15-17, 19; 18:11-14; 28: 1-2, 4-8

Judges 13: 2-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21

Isaiah 40: 1-3, 9; 41:17-18; 45: 8; 48-20-21; 54: 1

Hymns of the Litija

¹ O moun tains, give forth your sweet - ness; O hills, skip a-bout

like lambs; for to-day the Lord's fore-run-ner, de-sir-ing to a-bide with us,

is born of E-liz - a - beth. At his birth, he loosed his fa - ther's

si - lence. There-fore, let us cry out to him: O bap - tiz - er of Christ,

im - plore him to save our souls.

Tone 1 Bolhar