The Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John, who, while still in the womb of his mother, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He exulted in joy at the coming of the salvation of humanity. His own birth foretold the Lord Christ. Such great grace shone forth in him, that the Lord himself said concerning him that no one born of woman was greater than John the Baptist.

Supplement for The Divine Liturgies of our holy fathers John Chrysostom and Basil the Great, 2006

The Vigil Divine Liturgy begins on page 104 in the Divine Liturgies book. The beginning verses of the Lamp-lighting Psalms ("O Lord, I have cried") are sung in Tone 4 (page 138). At the Psalm verse "on 3" toward the bottom of page 116, continue as follows:

Stichera of the holy prophet and forerunner John - Tone 4 samohlasen

When John was born, the silence of Zechariah was broken. For when the Voice appeared, it was not proper that his father remain silent. Just as disbelief bound the father's tongue, so now the appearance of John frees him. Having

* to be sung on the evening of June 23
revealed himself, he preaches the good tidings to all. The Forerunner of Light
and the Voice of the Word is born. and he prays for the salvation of our souls.

Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples!

Today the Voice of the Word frees his father’s voice which was lost through disbelief, and he reveals the Church’s blessed posteriority, by loosing his mother’s bond of barrenness. The Lamp preceding the Light appears; the Star proclaims the coming of the Sun of Justice who is the restoration of all and the salvation of our souls.
Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faith-ful for-ev-er.

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 begin-ning of God's ac-tions is be-yond our un-der-stand-ing. You were be-got-ten e-ter-nal-ly, and con-ceived, O Lord, with-out seed. You work won-ders for our sal-va-tion.

Al-might-y Lord, glo-ry to you.

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir-it, now and ev-er and for-ev-er. A-men.
Today, like a shining star, the Lamp prepares the way for the coming of the Word of God. Today Zechariah speaks clearly, which ends the silence imposed by the angel; for it was not right that the father of the Voice should remain in silence, once John was born from a barren womb. With great boldness he comes to announce the great news of salvation for all of the world.

As the doxastikon is sung, the clergy enter the Holy Place with the gospel book and censer.

The service continues on page 117 with the singing of the Hymn of the Evening, "O Joyful Light". The prokeimenon of the day of the week is sung (pages 120-121), and the following readings may be chanted:

**Readings:**  
Genesis 17: 15-17, 19; 18:11-14; 28: 1-2, 4-8  (EOT 318)  
Judges 13: 2-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21  
Isaiah 40: 1-3, 9; 41:17-18; 45: 8; 48-20-21; 54: 1  (EOT 319)  

After the Small Litany (page 122), the Divine Liturgy continues with the Thrice-Holy Hymn ("Holy God") on page 27 of the Divine Liturgies book.
The just man will re-joice in the Lord, re-joice in the Lord and will put his trust in him.

Verse: Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to you.

Alleluia of the holy prophet and forerunner John - Tone 1 (Luke 1:68,76):

Verse: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people.
Verse: And you, O child, will be called prophet of the Most High.

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”: Magnification:

Ex-tol, ex-tol, O my soul, O my soul, the ho-ly birth of John the Bap-tist and For-run-ner of Christ.
The inefable mystery of the Word of God is clearly revealed, most pure Virgin. God has taken a body from you in his compassion. Therefore, we exalt you as the Theotokeos.

OR:
The inefable mystery of the Word of God is clearly revealed, most pure Virgin. God has taken a body from you in his compassion. Therefore, we exalt you as the Theotokeos.
The just man will be remembered forever; evil news he will not fear, evil news he will not fear.

Refrain

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The following hymn may be sung at the end of the Divine Liturgy if desired, either after the Ambon Prayer (if bread is blessed) or after the dismissal.

Troparion of the Nativity of the Forerunner - Tone 4

Prophet and fore-runner of the coming of Christ, although we honor you with love, we cannot give you worthy praise. Through your glorious and holy birth, your mother was freed from barrenness and your father from the loss of speech, and the incarnation of the Son of God is proclaimed to the world.