

**JUNE 24**

**Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon You!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise  
in Your sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

- v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!*
- v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.*
- v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*
- v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Tone 4**     *Idiomela*     *(by John the Monk)*

John is born, ending Zachariah's silence.  
The father cannot keep silent when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born.  
When at first he did not believe, his tongue was silenced,  
but now John has been born to free his father:  
the one who heard the good news,  
and from whom was born the voice of the Word, //  
the Forerunner of Light, who always intercedes for our souls.

- v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Today the voice of the Word is born,  
releasing Zachariah's silence,  
revealing the harvest of the Church,  
loosing the bonds of barrenness.  
The candlestick of the Light is drawing near.  
The ray of the Sun proclaims His coming//  
for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.

*v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 4**      *(by Anatolius)*

The messenger of God's Word comes forth from the womb:  
the greatest among those born of women;  
the most high of the Prophets.  
Wonderful events precede the divine mystery:  
a seedless conception; a marvelous birth!//  
Glory to You, Who have worked miracles for our salvation!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 4**      *(by Andrew of Crete)*

Today the great Forerunner comes from the barren womb of Elizabeth;  
the great Prophet of Prophets, whom none surpass in greatness.  
The radiant candlestick of the Light; the voice of the Word,  
the friend of the Bridegroom, preparing the Lord's chosen people  
by purifying them with water before the coming of the Spirit.  
He is Zachariah's offspring,  
the child of the wilderness,  
the preacher of repentance, and the cleanser of sins.  
He announced the Resurrection even to those in hell,//  
and he always prays for our souls.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

Today the Prophet and Forerunner appears from the womb:  
John, the Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
When he saw the Queen come to the handmaid,  
bearing in her womb the timeless God,//  
he leaped in his mother's womb and sang for joy.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Most glorious wonder!  
Zachariah asked the Angel of the Word:  
“How can Elizabeth conceive and bear a son?  
I am an old man; my wife is advanced in years.”  
And for his unbelief, he was condemned to silence,  
but today he beholds the birth and resumes his speech,  
entering into joy and crying out:  
“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for He has visited and redeemed His people,//  
granting to the world great mercy!”

*v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

O John most praised, apostle to the universe,  
the good news of Gabriel, the fruit of barrenness,  
the holy and righteous flower of the desert,  
the beloved friend of the Bridegroom Christ;//  
pray to Him that He save our souls!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6**      *(by Byzantius)*

Today, like a shining star, the lamp of the Light,  
heralds the coming of the Word of God;  
today Zachariah’s silence is loosed,  
for the father cannot remain silent at the birth of the Forerunner//  
who will proclaim the world’s deliverance with great boldness!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6**      *(Theotokion)*

Elizabeth conceived the Forerunner of grace;  
the Virgin conceived the King of glory.  
Both mothers greeted each other with a kiss.  
The infant leaped in the womb, praising his Master.  
His mother was amazed and cried out:  
“Why is this granted me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?//  
He will save the forsaken people, since He possesses great mercy.”

### Old Testament Readings

**Composite 10** *(Genesis 17:15-17, 19; 18:11-14; 21:1-8)*

**Composite 11** *(Judges 13:2-8, 13-14, 17-18,21)*

**Composite 8** *(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1)*

## Litya

### Tone 1

Drop down sweetness, O mountains,  
skip like lambs, O hills,  
for the Forerunner of the Lord Who shall dwelt in our midst  
has been born of Elizabeth  
and has ended the silence of his father!  
Therefore let us cry aloud to him://  
“O Baptist of Christ, intercede for the salvation of our souls!”

O Forerunner of the Lord, O lamp of the Light,  
O voice that heralds God,  
first witness and martyr of Christ among the Prophets,  
who intercedes on behalf of the world,//  
supplicate unceasingly that your flock be saved unharmed!

You were a herald of the Lamb and Word of God,  
O John, Prophet and Forerunner,  
foretelling future events and prophesying to the ends of the earth:  
“Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,”  
and grants to all great mercy!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

### Tone 5 *(by Andrew of Crete)*

Elizabeth gives birth today  
to the last of the Prophets and first of the Apostles,  
and she rejoices.  
He is the earthly Angel and heavenly man;  
the voice of the Word, the soldier and Forerunner of Christ,  
who leaped beforehand, proclaiming the birth of the Sun of Righteousness.  
Zachariah, who in his old age was astonished,  
and who was subjected to silence as a discipline,  
as father of the Voice, prophesies clearly:  
“For you, O child, shall be called the Prophet of the Most High,  
and shall go before Him to prepare His ways.”  
Therefore, O Angel, Prophet, Apostle, Soldier, Forerunner,  
Baptist, Herald of repentance, and Guide of the Light:  
as Voice of the Word, ceaselessly intercede for us,//  
who faithfully keep your memory!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 5**      *(Theotokion)*

O most precious Virgin,  
you are the gate, the temple,  
the palace, the throne of the King.  
From you, my Redeemer, Christ the Lord,  
appeared to those asleep in darkness.  
He is the Sun of Righteousness,  
Who desired to enlighten His image, whom He had created.  
Since you possess motherly boldness before Him, O all praised Lady,//  
pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2**      *Idiomela*

Let us praise John with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
the Prophet of Prophets, the flower of barrenness,  
the citizen of the desert, the greatest among those born of women!  
O Baptizer and Forerunner of the Savior,  
since you have boldness before Christ on the day of your holy birth,  
entreat Him to grant peace to the world,//  
and to our souls great mercy!

*V. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people.  
(Luke 1:68)*

The Voice of the Word of grace has come:  
the preacher of the Light of Light!  
He is born from the barren womb of Elizabeth.  
Rejoice, O people!  
He comes, preparing the way of salvation for us.  
He leaped in the womb and worshipped his Master:  
the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,//  
and grants us great mercy.

*V. And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High. (Luke 1:76)*

Today John blossoms from his mother's barren womb.  
He becomes the last of the Prophets.  
With boldness, he announces the coming of the Lord://  
"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8**      *(by Cassia the Nun)*

Today the voice of Isaiah the Prophet is fulfilled  
in the birth of John, the greatest of Prophets.  
He said: "Behold, I will send my Angel before Your face, to prepare Your way!"  
Now the warrior of the heavenly King has come.  
He truly will prepare the way for our God.  
He is a man by nature, but an angel in manner of life,  
He embraced purity and chastity forever,  
so they are now his by nature.  
Let all of us the faithful greet him, crying://  
"Pray for us, that our souls may be saved!"

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8**      *(Theotokion)*

Elizabeth greeted the Virgin Mary:  
"Why is it that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?  
You bear the King, and I His soldier;  
you the Giver of the Law,  
and I its proclaimer;  
you bear the Word, and I the voice//  
that preaches the Kingdom of Heaven."

*(at Great Vespers)*      **Tone 4**      **Troparion**

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,  
although we cannot praise you worthily,  
we honor you in love at your nativity,  
for by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's barrenness//  
proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4**      **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

The mystery of all eternity,  
unknown even by Angels,  
through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:  
God incarnate by union without confusion.  
He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,  
by which He resurrected the first-created man,//  
saving our souls from death.

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

**Tone 4      Troparion**

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,  
although we cannot praise you worthily,  
we honor you in love at you nativity,  
for by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's barrenness,//  
proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

**Tone 3      Kontakion**

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ's Forerunner,  
who is the fulfillment of every prophecy;  
for in the Jordan,  
when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the Prophets,//  
he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him. *(Ps. 63:11a)*

*V. Hear my voice, O God, when I pray to You! (Ps. 63:1a)*

**Epistle**

(112) Romans 13:11-14:4 *(St. John)*

**Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people.  
(Luke 1:68)*

*V. And you, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High. (Luke 1:76)*

**Gospel**

(1) Luke 1-25, 57-68, 76, 80 *(St. John)*

**Communion Hymn**

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil  
tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!