

Sunday 28th June, 2020, The Birth of St. John the Baptist

Collect

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way for your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance: lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85.7-13

7 Show us your steadfast love,
O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
8 Let me hear what God the Lord
will speak,
for he will speak peace to his
people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to
him in their hearts.
9 Surely his salvation is at hand for
those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our
land.
10 Steadfast love and faithfulness
will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss
each other.
11 Faithfulness will spring up from
the ground,
and righteousness will look down
from the sky.
12 The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Acts 13.14b-26

And on the sabbath day they went
into the synagogue and sat down.
After the reading of the law and the
prophets, the officials of the
synagogue sent them a message,
saying, 'Brothers, if you have any
word of exhortation for the people,
give it.' So Paul stood up and with a
gesture began to speak:
'You Israelites, and others who fear
God, listen. The God of this people
Israel chose our ancestors and made
the people great during their stay in
the land of Egypt, and with uplifted
arm he led them out of it. For about
forty years he put up with them in
the wilderness. After he had
destroyed seven nations in the land
of Canaan, he gave them their land
as an inheritance for about four
hundred and fifty years. After that
he gave them judges until the time
of the prophet Samuel. Then they
asked for a king; and God gave them
Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe
of Benjamin, who reigned for forty
years. When he had removed him,
he made David their king. In his
testimony about him he said, "I have
found David, son of Jesse, to be a
man after my heart, who will carry
out all my wishes." Of this man's
posterity God has brought to Israel a
Saviour, Jesus, as he promised;

before his coming John had already
proclaimed a baptism of repentance
to all the people of Israel. And as
John was finishing his work, he said,
"What do you suppose that I am? I
am not he. No, but one is coming
after me; I am not worthy to untie
the thong of the sandals on his feet."
'My brothers, you descendants of
Abraham's family, and others who
fear God, to us the message of this
salvation has been sent.

Gospel

Luke 1.57-66, 80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to
give birth, and she bore a son. Her
neighbours 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 neighbours, 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.
The child grew and became strong in
spirit, and he was in the wilderness
until the day he appeared publicly to
Israel.

Post Communion

Merciful Lord
whose prophet John the Baptist
proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of
God
who takes away the sin of the world:
grant that we who in this sacrament
have known your forgiveness and
your life-giving love
may ever tell of your mercy and your
peace:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.