

Sentence

**You will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins**

## The Birth of John the Baptist

Year C

24<sup>th</sup> June 2022

White

### Prayer of the Day

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 preaching a baptism of repentance:  
make us so to follow his teaching and holy life,  
that we may truly repent,  
and, following his example, may constantly speak the truth,  
boldly rebuke vice,  
and patiently suffer for the truth's sake;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.       **Amen.**

### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah,

*Chapter 49 beginning at Verse 1*

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength - <sup>6</sup> he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

[NRSV Isaiah 49:1-6]

Hear the word of the Lord,

***thanks be to God***

**Psalm 139 1-11**

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:  
you know when I sit or when I stand,  
you comprehend my thoughts long before.
- 2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:  
you are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue:  
but you, Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You have encompassed me behind and before:  
and have laid your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:  
so high that I cannot endure it.
- 6 Where shall I go from your spirit:  
or where shall I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I ascend into heaven you are there:  
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.
- 8 If I spread out my wings towards the morning:  
or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me:  
and your right hand shall hold me.
- 10 If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me:  
and the night will enclose me',
- 11 The darkness is no darkness with you,  
but the night is as clear as the day:  
the darkness and the light are both alike.

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,**

*Chapter 13 beginning at Verse (16) 22*

<sup>16</sup> So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:  
“You Israelites,<sup>[a]</sup> and others who fear God, listen. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> For about forty  
years he put up with<sup>[b]</sup> them in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup> After he had destroyed  
seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an  
inheritance <sup>20</sup> for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them

judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. <sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> 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.’ <sup>23</sup> Of this man’s posterity God has  
brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; <sup>24</sup> before his coming John  
had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of  
Israel. <sup>25</sup> 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.’

<sup>26</sup> “My brothers, you descendants of Abraham’s family, and others who  
fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

[NRSV Acts 13.(16–21) 22–26]

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God.***

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,**

*Chapter 1 beginning at verse 57*

***Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

<sup>57</sup> Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup> Her  
neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to  
her, and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going  
to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup> But his mother said, “No; he is to  
be called John.” <sup>61</sup> They said to her, “None of your relatives has this  
name.” <sup>62</sup> Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he  
wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is  
John.” And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened  
and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> Fear came over  
all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the  
entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup> All who heard them pondered them and said,  
“What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was  
with him.

<sup>80</sup> The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness  
until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

[NRSV Luke 1:57-66, 80]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***