

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Saturday, June 23, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 24, 2018 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

As We Gather

Did you notice that today is a birthday? Very few birthdays are remembered on our Church calendar—only two, in fact. Jesus', of course, for that is what Christmas is about, and John's, who prepared His way. Every other saint is commemorated on the death day.

John, the name given by the angel, means "God is gracious." John fulfilled the meaning of this name by heralding the arrival of the long-promised Messiah. It was not merely a father's pride that gave a song to Zechariah, John's father. This miracle birth was the signal for a greater miracle—the fulfillment of a promise that went back to Adam and Eve in Eden. Though we call him John the Baptist, he could just as accurately be called "John the Forerunner." John was born into a priestly family; his birth was marked with the announcement by an angel of his special role in preparing the way for Jesus. In the visit of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth, John kicked in the womb, leaping for joy. As Jesus prepared to begin His public ministry, John began to preach repentance, to baptize, and to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy.

Prelude & Welcome

Entrance Hymn (Please stand on last verse) "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" LSB 791



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
3 O en - ter then His gates with praise; Ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy



Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He
joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times



praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.

Opening Sentences

based on Luke 1:68, 77-79

P: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

C: **for He has visited and redeemed His people.**

P: He had given the knowledge of salvation to His people

C: **in the forgiveness of their sins.**

P: Because of the tender mercy of our God,
C: those who sit in sin's darkness and in the shadow of death find peace.

Confession, Absolution, and the Sharing of the Peace

L: A reading from Luke's Gospel:

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. ¹¹John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, and we have not always produced fruit in keeping with repentance. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We seldom share our worldly possessions with our neighbors who have none. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon You and has sent His only Son who suffered for us to forgive us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

We greet one another in peace.

Hymn of Praise

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

LSB 791

5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

† The Word of the Lord †

Old Testament (*Please be seated*)

“Comfort, Comfort”

Isaiah 40:1-5

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn Verse (*Please stand and sing*)

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

LSB 577



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Holy Gospel

“The Birth of John the Baptist”

Luke 1:57-80

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶²And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the

oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” ⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day (*Please be seated*)

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

LSB 733



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad-ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou-sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Soon bears us all away;
 We fly forgotten as a dream
 Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last
 And our eternal home!



- 1) Joy is an _____, a _____,
in the New Testament.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

-1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

- 2) Zechariah looked back _____.

⁷⁰ ...as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham...

-LUKE 1:70-73

- 3) Zechariah rejoiced in _____.

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people...”

-LUKE 1:68

- 4) Zechariah didn’t _____.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

-PHILIPPIANS 4:4

- 5) Zechariah looked forward _____.

¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

-PHILIPPIANS 3:13-15

Listen to past sermons or share them with a friend at clcs.org/sermons.

Nicene Creed *(Please stand)*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Pastoral Greeting & Rite of Fellowship *(Please be seated)*

(Welcome! Please add your name to the fellowship pad.)

Installation of Ministry Team Directors, Members, and Congregational Officers

Gathering of Offerings

(As an act of worship and thanksgiving, we offer to God what He has first given to us: the first and best of our lives, time, talents and financial gifts. We trust Him to supply all our needs. If you would like to give your offering electronically, you can use www.clcs.org/donate or the QR code here.)



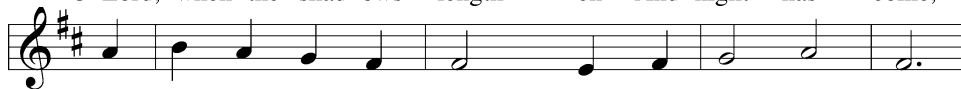
For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. — 2 Corinthians 8:9

Offering Hymn (6:30 p.m. & 10:45 a.m.) "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

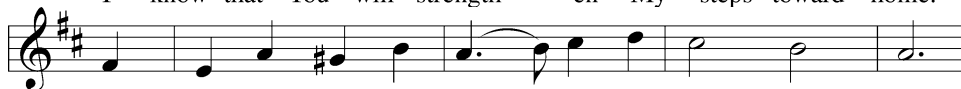
LSB 722



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear,
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.
For You, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.
I know that You will strength - en My steps toward home.



With - out Your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by Your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
Then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend;



So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.
For when Your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Special Music (8:00 a.m.) "Praise to the Lord the Almighty"

arr. John Stebbe

John and Brynn Stebbe-guitar/cello

Prayer of the Church (Please stand)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For (...special petitions), let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The 8:00 a.m. service continues on page 11.

Holy Communion - Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life. He says: "Come, for those who eat this bread and drink this cup will never hunger or thirst, but be raised up on the Last Day" (John 6). Whoever receives the Lord's Supper must be a believer in Christ (Hebrews 11:6); be sorry for their sins (Proverbs 28:13); believe that Christ offers His body and blood with the bread and wine (1 Corinthians 10:16); and be willing to forgive those who have sinned against you (Matthew 6:14-15). Come with faith in His promises to you and His presence in this holy meal.

As you approach the Lord's table, please move to the cross on the center rail.

Gluten-free wafers are available on the two stands at the front of the church.

Worshippers with a gluten allergy may pick up a sealed packet on their way to the communion rail.

✠ Service of Holy Communion ✠ 6:30 p.m. & 10:45 a.m.

The Words of Institution & the Peace of the Lord

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei (Sung)

"Lamb of God"

LSB 550

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. *[Refrain]*

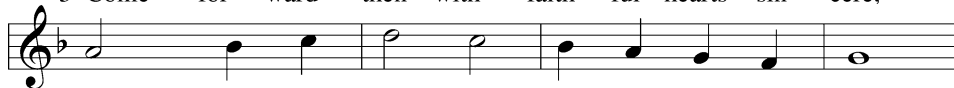
Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. *[Refrain]*

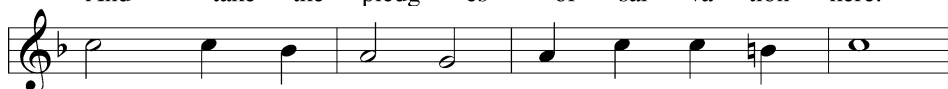
Distribution Hymns (*Please be seated*) "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" LSB 637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.



“Be Still, My Soul”

LSB 752



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa-tient-
 2 Be still, my soul; your God will un-der-take To guide the
 3 Be still, my soul; though dear-est friends de-part And all is
 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has-t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or-der
 fu-ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con-fi-dence let
 dark-ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet-ter know His
 be for-ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and



and pro-vide; In ev-ry change He faith-ful will re-
 noth-ing shake; All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at
 love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor-rows and your
 fear are gone, Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n-ly Friend
 last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
 fears. Be still, my soul; your Je-sus can re-pay
 stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
 His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.
 From His own full-ness all He takes a-way.
 All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

Post-Communion Hymn (Please stand) “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” LSB 805



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all



crea-tures here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly



host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

Communion Blessing

8:00 a.m. service continues here

Evening Prayer (6:30 p.m.)

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Morning Prayer (8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.)

C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

LSB 923



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
wor - shipped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Postlude