

2 We praise You for the Baptist,
Forerunner of the Word,
Our true Elijah, making
A highway for the Lord.
The last and greatest prophet,
He saw the dawning ray
Of light that grows in splendor
Until the perfect day.

3 Then let us praise the Father
And worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne,
Ascribing pow'r and glory
And praise to God alone.

WORD SCRAMBLE

cZhhaarei _____
teedsBicnu _____
hoJn _____
mriosspe _____
cclainte _____
zlabEetih _____
srpite _____
ibarlGe _____
mlteep _____

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LESSONS FOR LAMBS

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (JUNE 24)

The color for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist is white.



What to listen for during the service?

The words of verses 68 to 79 spoken by Zechariah in today's Gospel reading are called the Benedictus. They are sometimes used in the worship service as the canticle. A canticle is a hymn that uses biblical text and forms a regular part in a church service. Listen for these words during your church service today. What are these words talking about? Do the words remind us of God's promises?

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:57-80

(The Gospel Reading is from the part of the Bible that is about Jesus and his ministry.)

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." 61 And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." 62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. 65 And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, 66 and 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.

67 And 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 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, 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, to grant us 74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Questions to talk about with your parents:

- 1) What did Zechariah & Elizabeth name their son? Why didn't they want their son named after Zechariah?
- 2) Why couldn't Zechariah speak in the beginning of the reading? Why could he speak beginning in verse 64?
- 3) What are the words in verses 68 to 79 called? What is Zechariah proclaiming in these words?
- 4) What was John going to do when he got older?

People of the Bible: Zechariah

In today's Gospel Reading we hear about Zechariah. But who was Zechariah? Zechariah was a priest, and he was married to Elizabeth. In Luke 1 we hear that Zechariah and Elizabeth were not able to have children because Elizabeth was barren. One day Zechariah was in the temple burning incense (burning incense smells sweet and he did this as a priest to follow God's law). While he was in the temple the angel Gabriel appeared to him. Gabriel told him that Elizabeth would have a son and they should name him John. Zechariah didn't believe the angel at first because he was an old man and Elizabeth was also old. Because Zechariah didn't believe the angel, the angel told Zechariah he would not be able to speak until John was born. In the reading today we hear about the birth of John. Zechariah was able to speak again then and he fulfilled what the angel told him by naming his son John. He was then filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke about God's promises and about the Savior, Jesus. Zechariah had faith in Christ, and even though Zechariah made some mistakes, God forgave him and used him to proclaim the good news about Jesus.

HYMN – "By All Your Saints in Warfare"

- 1 By all Your saints in warfare,
For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus,
Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle
That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory
Reflected from Your throne.