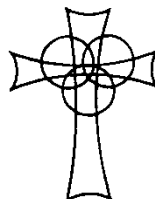


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*A Member Congregation of  
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**Midweek Devotions  
The Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist  
Wednesday in the Week of Pentecost III  
June 24, 2020**



**The Office of Vespers**

✠ *In the Name of Jesus Christ* ✠

The Opening Versicles:

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
  
- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
  
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

- L** <sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.
- C** <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**
- L** <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** <sup>10</sup>**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- L** <sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C** <sup>12</sup>**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**
- L** <sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- <sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
<sup>2</sup>Speak 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.
- <sup>3</sup>A voice cries:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- <sup>4</sup>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.
- <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- L** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
 for he has visited and redeemed his people  
<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
 in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies  
 and from the hand of all who hate us;  
<sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
 and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
<sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
 might serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
 in the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup>because of the tender mercy of our God,  
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

The Prayers:

The Vespers Versicle:

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
**C** **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

The *Kyrie Eleison*:

- C** **Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord's Prayer:

- 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 Collects:

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.  
**C** **And let my cry come to You.**

For the Day of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist:

- L** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation. Now grant that we may know this salvation and serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

For the Week of Pentecost III:

- L** O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

For Peace:

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The *Benedicamus* and Blessing:

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
  
- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ *To God All Praise and Glory!* ✠

