

# THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

24 June



## About the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

This Solemnity dates back to the fourth century and celebrates four aspects of John the Baptist:

- the birth of the greatest of all the prophets
- the one who leapt for joy in his mother's womb, when Mary was pregnant and visited Elizabeth
- the one who prepared the way for Christ and announced His presence and
- the one who baptized Jesus in the River Jordan.

### Bibliography

Daily Mass Book, © 2019 Liturgy Brisbane

Sourcebook 2017: © Liturgy Training Publications 2017

Universals App: 24 June

## What can we learn from Saint John the Baptist?

John revealed Jesus to others as both the Messiah and the Lamb of God. He exemplifies the Christian life as one who proclaimed the Gospel message of healing and repentance and at the same time pointed Christ out and showed people the way to be united with God. John did not let his reputation or fame get to him, nor did he lord it over others. He knew his mission and his place and recognized that he must decrease and Jesus must increase (John 3:30). There are times in our life when things don't go the way we would like or the way we had planned. In those times, we must pray for the grace to be like Mary, let God's will be done, and trust in God to guide us along the different way he would like us to travel. COVID-19 has certainly shown us that we have to adapt. Overnight, many things we liked to do for entertainment came to a grinding halt. People lost their jobs and many things they had planned (sometimes well in advance) went out the window. The people who survived this crisis best are those who have adapted and prayed, asking God for help, and used their time wisely to either learn new skills or lend a helping hand to those who need it most. In this way, they have shown others God's presence and the way to follow His Son, Jesus.

## Prayer Resources

### COLLECT

O God, who raised up Saint John the Baptist  
to make ready a nation fit for Christ the Lord,  
give your people, we pray,  
the grace of spiritual joys  
and direct the hearts of all the faithful  
into the way of salvation and peace.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### GOSPEL

**Luke 1:57-66,80**

*John is his name.*

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child,  
and she gave birth to a son;  
and when her neighbours and relations heard  
that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.  
Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child;  
they were going to call him Zechariah after his father,  
but his mother spoke up.  
‘No,’ she said ‘he is to be called John.’  
They said to her, ‘But no one in your family has that name’,  
and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called.  
The father asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, ‘His name is John.’  
And they were all astonished.  
At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God.  
All their neighbours were filled with awe  
and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea.  
All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts.  
‘What will this child turn out to be?’ they wondered.  
And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.  
Meanwhile the child grew up and his spirit matured.  
And he lived out in the wilderness until the day he appeared openly to Israel.

### Communion Antiphon

cf. Lk 1:78

Through the tender mercy of our God,  
the Dawn from on high will visit us.

## **Copyright Acknowledgements**

Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). All rights reserved.

The Scripture Readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967, 1968 Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Co. Inc. Used by permission of the publishers.

## **Hymn for the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist**

1. In the Temple, Zechariah  
met the angel Gabriel,  
who told him not to be fearful,  
for he had good news to tell.  
"Your wife will bear a son to you  
and his name is to be John."  
Zechariah made objections,  
and could not speak from then on.

2. Elizabeth welcomed Mary,  
who carried her child divine;  
and the child within her womb leapt  
for joy at this blessed time.  
"Of all women the most blessed,  
God's Mother is here with me."  
Everything that God had promised  
very soon would come to be.

3. Three months later came the moment,  
Elizabeth's time had come.  
Eight days later was the naming,  
and his father was still dumb.  
"John is his name," was his answer,  
and he could speak once again.  
John grew up to preach and baptize,  
and announce God's coming reign.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono  
Tune: HYMN TO JOY 87.87D

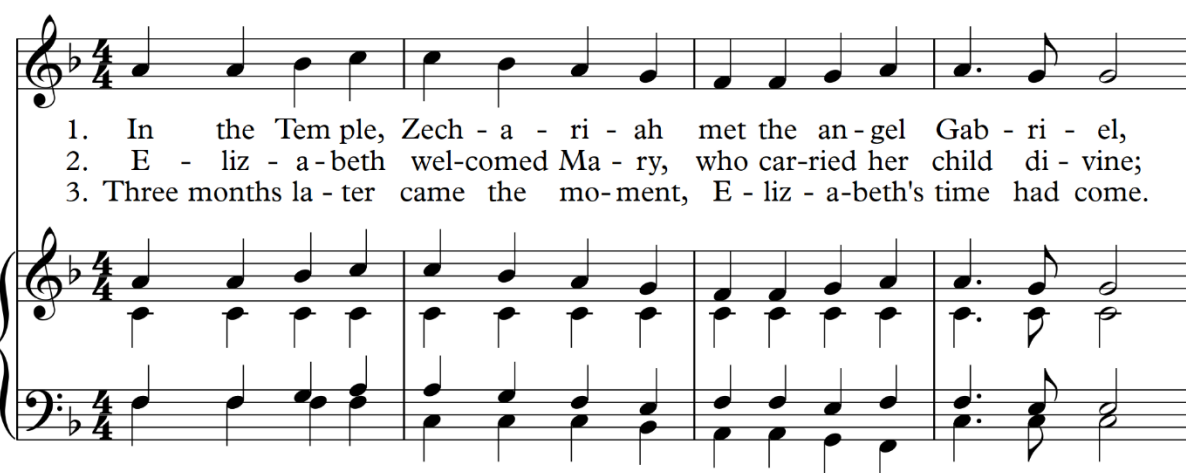
# The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

(24 June)

Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

HYMN TO JOY 87.87D

Voice

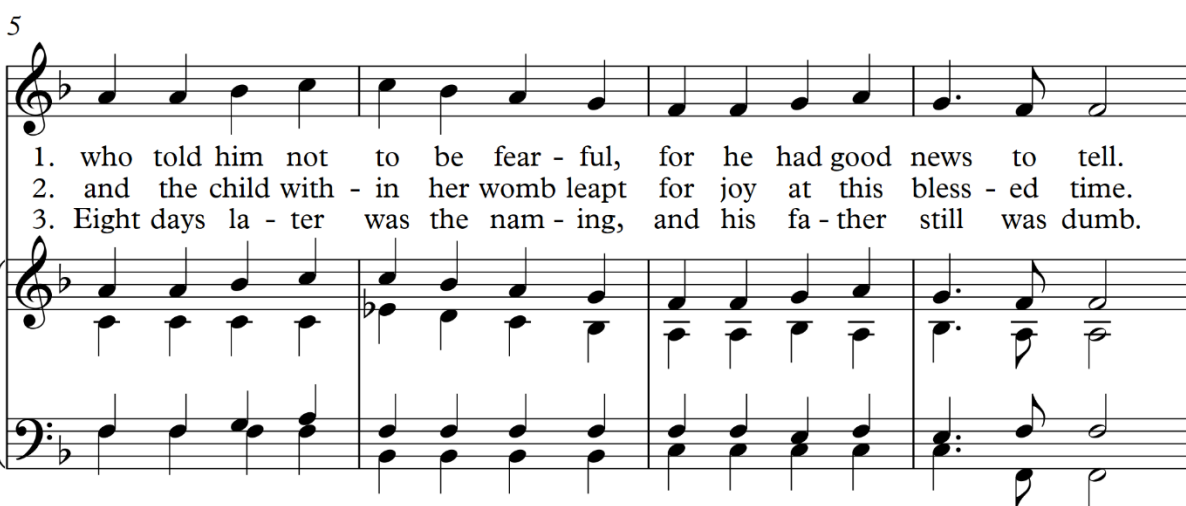


1. In the Tem ple, Zech - a - ri - ah met the an - gel Gab - ri - el,  
2. E - liz - a - beth wel - comed Ma - ry, who car - ried her child di - vine;  
3. Three months la - ter came the mo - ment, E - liz - a - beth's time had come.

Organ

5

Voice



1. who told him not to be fear - ful, for he had good news to tell.  
2. and the child with - in her womb leapt for joy at this bless - ed time.  
3. Eight days la - ter was the nam - ing, and his fa - ther still was dumb.

Org.

9

Voice

1. "Your wife will bear a Son to you and his name is to be John."  
2. "Of all wo - men the most bless-ed, God's Moth-er is here with me."  
3. "John is his name," was his an-swer, and he could speak once a - gain.

Org.

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for measures 9 through 12. The voice part is on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The organ part consists of two staves (treble and bass) with block chords and moving lines in the right hand. The lyrics are provided for three different vocal parts.

13

Voice

1. Zech - a - ri - ah made ob - jec - tions, and could not speak from then on.  
2. Ev - erything that God had prom-ised ve - ry soon would come to be.  
3. John grew up to preach and bap - tise, and an-nounce God's com - ing reign.

Org.

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for measures 13 through 16. The voice part continues the melody from the previous system. The organ part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are provided for three different vocal parts.