

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
**The Nativity
Of St. John the
Baptist**

10:00 a.m.

June 24, 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35



The Order of Morning Worship – Setting Four

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

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, perhaps the term "John the Forerunner" best describes him. John was born into a priestly family; his birth was marked by the angel for his special role. 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.

✠ ORGAN PRELUDE

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **347**: *"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"*

Confession and Absolution

p. 203

Service of the Word

p. 204

Kyrie

Gloria in Excelsis

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

P: 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.

(Be Seated)

P: Of all those born of woman, Jesus said, none is greater than John, the forerunner of our Lord. Today we recall the voice that fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and the man who pointed to Jesus, the Lamb of God. But we recall John through his birth, filled with the hand of God in bringing all things to readiness for us and our salvation. God still raises up voices to proclaim Jesus Christ in our own day to those who have not heard. In the Old Testament Reading from Isaiah, the prophet speaks God's Word of comfort and hope to a people burdened by sorrow and despair. In the Epistle from Acts, Paul recounts the history of God's plan of salvation and John's role as messenger of the Kingdom. In the Holy Gospel according to Luke, we hear how John was born of Elizabeth and how Zechariah regained his speech to give their son the name the angel had foretold.

✠ **OLD TESTAMENT:** Isaiah 40:1–5 (*Comfort My people with the promise of forgiveness.*)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 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. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ **EPISTLE:** Acts 13:13–26

(John proclaimed a Baptism of repentance to prepare the way of the Savior.)

Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

"Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.

And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

"Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand and Sing Alleluia and Verse on Page 205)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:57–80

(You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before Him to prepare His way.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C (Sung): Glory be to You, O Lord.

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

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

And 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 (Sung): Praise be to You, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

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.

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.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY No. **518**: *"By All Your Saints in Warfare"* (Sts. 1, 18, and 3)

✠ SERMON: *"I Love It When a Plan Comes Together"* Luke 1:57-80

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

Choir Anthem:

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord, on behalf of His Church, for the world, and for all people as they have need.

O mighty Lord, as once You raised up a horn of salvation in Your Son and set apart a prophet to prepare His way, raise up voices in our own time to proclaim Your gracious visitation and the revelation of Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, that those who live in darkness walk in His light. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy

P: O gracious God, Your grace has been shown to generation after generation, and Your mercies are new every morning. Lead us to faith, that we trust not in our works but solely in Your favor, made known through Your Son. Give us courage for the way, hope in Your Word, and confidence that what You began in us, You will bring to completion on the day of our Lord. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy

P: O holy Lord, You have placed Your promise upon Your people. Protect Your Church from all her enemies, strengthen her unity in doctrine and life, and keep her faithful amid so many distractions. Bless all whom You have made Yours through Baptism, and keep them in faith and repentance until our Lord returns in glory. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy

P: O God of power and might, all power is Yours in heaven and on earth. Bless us with good and wise leaders and make them faithful to Your leading for the cause of peace and for the sake of those most vulnerable. Give special protection to those whose work is dangerous and to all who protect us on Your behalf among our police, armed forces, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy

P: O loving Lord, You have established the homes of Your people to be places of blessing, love, forgiveness, and faith. Continue to guide and strengthen marriages and families that they walk in Your ways. Bless those institutions through which Your Church cares for and teaches youth, from preschool to university and seminary. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy

P: O compassionate Lord, You claim our wounds and You suffer for us for our salvation. Be with those who suffer afflictions of body, mind, and spirit, and especially those near death. Give them courage in trial, comfort in pain, relief from suffering, and healing according to Your will, until You bring us at last to the place where afflictions will trouble us no more. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy

P: O giving Lord, You have so richly equipped us with abilities and resources. Help us to use them for Your glory in ways that honor You and serve Your purpose. Receive the tithes and offerings we bring this day as part of our worship, praise, and thanksgiving. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy

P: O blessed Redeemer, You daily and richly feed us with the good things of this earth. Even more richly You have blessed us with the Holy Supper of Christ's body and blood. Prepare us well to receive this Holy Communion that we rejoice in the blessing of this Meal and keep its grace faithfully until we gather here again or until we come to know with the saints in heaven the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom without end. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy

P: Remembering Your mercy shown to Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John, and all those who trusted in Your mercy and have now entered Your rest, we give You thanks and praise, looking forward to the day when we enjoy the blest reunion before Your face. Until that day, guard our hearts and minds that we not depart from Your Word nor fail to proclaim Your mercy to every generation. Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Amen.

P: These and whatsoever things we should ask, we ask You to give to us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament (p. 208)

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Pastor comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte. If you are not a member of this congregation or a sister congregation within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is suggested that you speak to the Pastor before partaking of Holy Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **628**: *"Your Table I Approach"*

***At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with
the NUNC DIMITTIS on p. 211***

✠ CLOSING HYMN No. **346**: *"When All the World Was Cursed"*

✠ SILENT PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Assisting Elders – Paul Brose & Bill
Schneeloch

Acolyte – Dan Provost

Lay Reader – Andrea Weidhaas

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marilyn Johnson from her husband, Roy.

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (June 24, 2018)

Isaiah 40:1–5, Acts 13:13–26, Luke 1:57–80

St. John the Baptist Was Sent to Prepare the Way of the Lord

St. John the Baptist is not the Christ, only His forerunner (Acts 13:25). He was called from the womb to bring Jacob back to God through his Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Isaiah 49:5), just as Christ was the true Servant of the Lord. Miraculously conceived by Zechariah the priest of barren Elizabeth, John was marked to be the greatest born of women (Matthew 11:11). The Church rejoices over the Lord's mercy just as Elizabeth's neighbors and relatives did at John's birth (Luke 1:58). But when Zechariah's tongue was loosed, John was not the subject of his song. Instead, he said, *"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people"* (Luke 1:68). John is the voice crying, *"Prepare the way of the LORD"* (Isaiah 40:3); Jesus, the virgin-born Son of God, is that Lord. John is *"the prophet of the Most High"* (Luke 1:76). He is born *"to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins,"* because Christ the Dayspring is visiting (Luke 1:76–79). Thus, what John preaches is the comfort of sins pardoned by Jesus, the promised Savior of Israel (Acts 13:23), so *"that [His] salvation may reach to the end of the earth"* (Isaiah 49:6).

