

Guardian Angels Catholic Community

June 25, 2017

www.guardianangelscatholiccommunity.org

The Nativity of John the Baptist

Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80

(everyone joins in with the text in **BOLD**)



The Birth of John the Baptist

Gathering: Canticle of the Turning

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blessed.
Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain: **My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. Refrain

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn:

There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. Refrain

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. Refrain

GREETING

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

The grace and peace of the Living God: Creator;
Jesus, and Spirit, is with each of you! **And also with you!**

INTRODUCTION AND PENITENTIAL RITE

My friends, today we celebrate the Nativity of John the Baptist. Some call this day “Little Christmas.” John, the cousin of Jesus, is a miracle baby born to elderly Zechariah and Elizabeth, who thought they were too old to have a child. Sometimes life surprises us and brings us something new and we can only respond with awe and gratitude. Let us pray today for new possibilities for the world, our community, our family and ourselves.

Lord, you were born into this world that we may have life:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, you were born into our hearts
that we may live life to the full:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you were born and we are waiting to be born anew:

Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Know that our Merciful God has already forgiven us
and cleansed us of our sins.

We need only accept this forgiveness + in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

GLORIA (sung and sprinkling rite)

Gloria, glory! Gloria, glory! Gloria, Excelsis Deo, Deo!

VS 1 **Sing to the Lord a new song.**

You are Lord God almighty, King of all love.

**Almighty God our Creator, we give you glory,
we praise your name.**

VS 2 **Jesus Christ. Lord Most High. Son of God.**

**Lamb of God. You who take away our sin
and sit at God's right hand.**

VS 3 **You alone are holy. You alone are Lord.**

**God most high with the Spirit, the glory of God,
Lord Most High!**

OPENING PRAYER

Covenanting God,

your promises can never fail.

In every age you place your words

on the lips of the prophets

and a thirst for justice in the hearts of your people.

As we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist,

preacher of your word and herald of the Savior,

challenge us with the conversion John proclaimed.

And comfort us with the salvation he announced. AMEN

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

O Lord, how you search me! My God, how you know me!

You see me when I rest and when I rise.

From behind and before me, my God, you explore me;

so terrible, so wonderful, so wise!

2nd Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give the glory and the honor to the Lord!

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the holy + Gospel according to.....

Glory to you, Lord.

The Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Praise to you Jesus Christ! HOMILY



PROFESSION OF FAITH (A creed from the United Church of Canada, 1980)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

My friends, on this day that we remember the miracle birth of John the Baptist, let us pray for new life for our church, our world, our families and communities, and for ourselves:

*For new life for the church: for unity among Christians; for dialogue with those who do not share our faith in Jesus; for cooperation among all good people everywhere, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

*For new life for the nations: for dedicated and inspiring leaders; for a commitment to solutions that hurt no one and benefit all; for peace where there is no peace, we pray:

Lord, hear our prayer.

*For new life for people whose lives are fragile: for the poor, the sick, those living with chronic pain, those in harm's way, those living with depression or loneliness or without hope for the future, we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray?

For all these spoken prayers
and for all those unspoken in our hearts, we pray:

**God of life and love,
you make miracles wherever people call on you.
Hear our prayers for new life today and make a miracle
in us so that we might be like John the Baptist —
announcing your presence to our waiting and needy
world. AMEN**

Preparation: #109 Find Us Ready

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus you said to your friends, I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Grant that all of God's children may enjoy the peace and unity of your reign where you live forever and ever. **AMEN**

The peace of Jesus is with each of you! **And also with you!**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace and then join together around the Table of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

(Presider lifts paten with bread into hands and says:)

Blessed are you, God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God forever!

(Wine and water are poured into the chalice. Presider says:)

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

(Presider takes chalice and says:)

Blessed are you, God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become for us our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God forever!

As we prepare to break this bread and share this cup we remember those who journey with us. For those who travel the way of the Hindus, those who follow the path of Buddha, for our sisters and brothers of Islam, for Native peoples everywhere, for the Jewish people from whom we come, for all Christians and for all others who walk the way of faith..

**Holy God, accept this offering,
for the praise and glory of Your name,
for our good and the good of all Your people.**

Christ lived and died for love.
Let us remember him with this feast.

**All who seek God and are drawn to Christ
are welcome at God's table.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

**Generous God, accept the gifts we bring to your altar
to celebrate the birth of John the Baptist,
who foretold the coming of our Savior
and made him known when he came. AMEN**

PREFACE

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, Creator of all, it is right that we give you praise and glory as we come in thanksgiving, for you are the one God, living and true. Source of life, you have blessed all creation in love and in joy. You never cease to call us to a new and more abundant life.

**You invite us to trust in your mercy for you are always
ready to forgive us and to gift us with peace when we
forgive, too. You ask us to serve the family of God by
opening our hearts to the fullness of your Holy Spirit
and to proclaim the power of your love.**

In wonder and gratitude, we join our voices with the choirs of angels and saints who have gone before us, as we sing together:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord! **Holy, holy, holy, Lord!**
God of power and might! **God of power and might!**
Hosanna in the highest!
Heaven and earth are full! **Heaven and earth are full!**
Full of your glory! **Full of your glory!**
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are they who come! **Blessed are they who come!**
Who come in the name of God!
Who come in the name of God!
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Loving God, you are holy indeed. All life, all holiness comes from you. We come to thank you for your Son, Jesus for it is through him that we experience your message of total acceptance of all people, a welcome that includes everyone and invites everyone to this Eucharistic table of equals.

It was Jesus who healed all divisions and recognized You, His Father, present within all of creation. He brought to light your way of compassion and justice, helping us to understand the need to care for each other with dignity and respect.

He taught us by his life and by his death and resurrection to be true to ourselves, even if we, also, might need to give up everything as he did. For it is in our own dying, that we, too, rise to new life.

(Presider extends hand over bread and wine and says:)

So now we remember another table filled with love and thanksgiving – that of the Last Supper. Let your Spirit come upon these our gifts to make them holy so that they may become for us + the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Presider takes bread and says:)

It was at table with his friends that Jesus took bread and broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

**Take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body which will be given up for you.**

(Presider takes chalice and says:)

When the supper was ended, again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples and said,

Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: (sung)

Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Lord, Jesus come in glory! (repeat)

In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Compassionate God, this life-giving bread, this saving cup. May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ, be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

One with the love of Christ, and joined with the love of all of us gathered here, we send prayers to all in leadership in every place of worship, especially for our Bishop Francis, and for all who serve the people of God.

We pray for all countries and their leaders that they may create justice and equality for their peoples; may peace come to our own country as well as to all the troubled lands of our world.

We pray for all who are sick that health may soon be theirs, especially we pray for all who have died. (pause)
May they be in peace and may they welcome us, one day, into the place of eternal peace.

In that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, language and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ the Lord.



(Bread and wine are held up as WE sing...)

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen. (repeat)

Let us join hands and pray what Jesus has taught us to pray (chanted):

**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 the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread and drink this cup
for the earth we have wasted, for those who have no bread
and for ourselves in our brokenness.

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy
on us; Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have
mercy on us; Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

(Presider breaks a small piece of host & drops it into chalice saying:)

May this mingling of the holy body and blood of Jesus Christ
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**Jesus, with faith in your love and mercy we receive this
Eucharist. Let it bring us health in mind, body and spirit.**

This is Jesus the Christ who taught us how to live.

Happy are we who are called to his supper.

May we receive this gift in purity of heart.

May it bring us healing and strength now and forever.

Holy Communion is a great privilege, a precious feast.

And the host invites us all. "In Christ, there is no Jew or Greek,
slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal
3:28) We encourage you to take your place at this holy table,
for we understand and acknowledge that this is Christ's table
and that this sacred meal is Christ's supper. We are all invited
guests. No one is excluded. All are welcomed here!

Communion Song: Comm 1: #119 I Will Choose Christ

Comm 2: Servant Song

**Who is my servant? Where is she?
My light to the nations, where is he?
In prison and palace My Gospel who told,
And living, My Gospel became?
This is My servant, whom I shall uphold,
His name is Christ is her name!**

**Who answers to slander with silence,
And vengeance returns not for violence?
Who shouts to the darkness in people grown cold
A word that shall set them aflame?
This is My servant, whom I shall uphold,
His name is Christ is her name!**

**Who sing of My love in their living;
Whose days are a prayer of thanksgiving?
Who seek not the glamour of glory and gold,
For I am their fortune and fame?
This is My servant, whom I shall uphold,
His name is Christ is her name!**

**Who stand in the storm like a beacon,
With hope for the ravaged and weakened?
Whose presence is healing for young and for old,
To friend and to stranger the same?
This is My servant, whom I shall uphold,
His name is Christ is her name!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**As John's preaching shook the world from its
indifference, O God of Israel, may this eucharist we have
shared confront our complacency and strengthen us to
courageously give witness to your abundant love for all.
AMEN**

FINAL BLESSING The Lord is with you...**And also with you.**
Let us bow our heads and pray for God's Blessing...

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

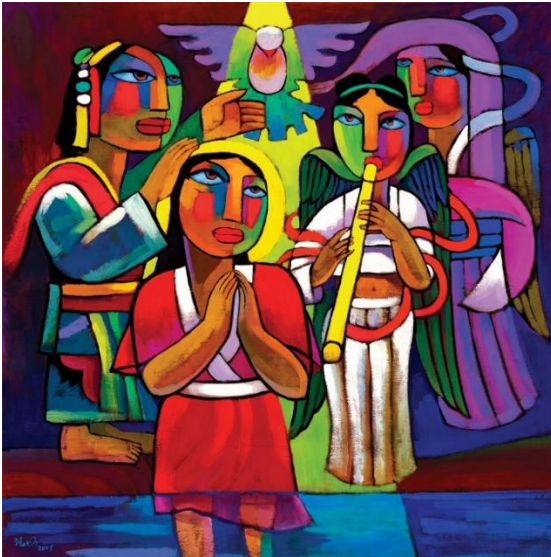
May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

And may our loving God bless you today and always:
Father, Son + and Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

DISMISSAL

Our mass never ends, it must be lived. So let us go forth to love and serve the Lord! Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Sending Forth: #113 Go Make a Difference



Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist by Qi He

***In essentials, unity;
In nonessentials, diversity;
In all things, charity.***

Attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo