

Morning Prayer

*Sunday, June 28, 2020 – The Nativity of
Saint John the Baptist*

Officiant: The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Gillard
Preacher: The Rev'd Fr. Jeffry Kennedy
Organist & Cantor: Damien Macedo

Prelude Excerpt from Voluntary no. 5 (Samuel Wesley)

The Gathering of the Community

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

Venite *Psalm 95.1-7*
Officiant The Lord is our refuge and strength:
People **O come, let us worship.**

Officiant Come, let us sing to the Lord;
All **let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land. Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Officiant The Lord is our refuge and strength:
People **O come, let us worship.**

Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (100)* PSALM 42
Comfort, comfort ye my people; speak ye peace: thus says your God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load;
speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them:
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark! The herald voice is calling in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since the reign of God is here.
Oh, the warning call obey! Now prepare for Christ a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble as befits Messiah's reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's Word is never broken.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"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.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:8-13

Please join on the alternating (bolded) verses of the psalm.

⁷ Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸ **I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ **Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹² **The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³ Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading: Acts 13:14-26

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it." So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

"You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.' Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'

"My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle A Song from Ezekiel

Officiant I will take you from the nations,
All **and gather you from every country,
and bring you home to your own land.**

**I will pour clean water upon you,
purify you from all defilement,
and cleanse you from all your idols.**

**A new heart I will give you,
and put a new spirit within you;
I will take from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.**

**I will put my spirit within you,
make you walk in my ways
and observe my decrees.**

**You shall dwell in the land
I gave to your forebears;
you shall be my people
and I will be your God.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:57-80

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands 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 by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev'd Fr. Jeffry Kennedy

The Apostles Creed

Officiant Let us confess our faith as we say,
All I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation to Christian Stewardship

*We at St John the Baptist Norway give regularly to God's work through offerings and other gifts.
Our offerings support the life of the parish, as well as the work we do in the world, both locally and globally.
We invite you to contribute financially as you are able to the life and ministry of the parish.
Instructions for submitting contributions can be found in the announcements.*

Officiant Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and
in the earth is thine. All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee.
Amen.

Intercessions and Prayers

Intercessions

Leader In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father. Lord
God, who promised Zechariah a son filled with the spirit and power of Elijah, to
prepare a people fit for the Lord: we pray for reconciliation between all people.
Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Lord God, when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting the baby leapt in her womb:
may she who believed your promise be blessed among women, and may we
proclaim with joy the good news of your Christ. Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Lord God, at John's birth Zechariah proclaimed he would be the prophet of the
Most High: we pray for all who preach the Good News, praying especially for all
bishops, priests, and deacons, and for all lay leaders throughout your church.
Lord, hear us

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Lord God, when your Son came to the Jordan and was baptized by John he saw the heavens open and the Spirit descending as a dove: may we who are baptized into your Church faithfully proclaim in the world the words of your beloved Son. Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Lord God, John proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of God and John's disciples followed Jesus: help us to follow him also, and by our words and deeds to bring our families and friends closer to you. Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Lord God, who sent John to witness to the light, to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness and to prepare the way of the Lord: comfort your people and bring your healing to the sick and needy, to the broken-hearted and the oppressed, to prisoners and captives. Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Lord God, John preached the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and suffered imprisonment and death for proclaiming your Law: we remember all who have died in your service, joining our prayers with John the Baptist and all the saints; grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom. Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader God our Father, in your tender compassion the dawn from on high has broken upon us. Shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and guide our feet into the way of peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Officiant Let us pray. Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people the wisdom to see your purpose, and the openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All **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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Officiant

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Hark A Herald Voice is Sounding (108)

MERTON

Hark, a herald voice is sounding: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us all, with deep repentance, pray that we may be forgiven,

that when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

Dismissal

Officiant

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

June (Barcarolle) from The Seasons (Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky)

Announcements

Contributing Financially

There are three ways you can contribute financially to the parish:

1. By cheque, made payable to 'St John the Baptist Norway Anglican Church' and mailed to: 470 Woodbine Ave South, Toronto, Ontario, M4E 2H6.
2. Donate online through CanadaHelps.org. A link can be found on the main page of the parish website (stjohnsnorway.com).
3. Pre-authorized Debit (PAD). If you wish to sign-up for automatic monthly withdrawals, please contact the wardens.

Tax receipts are issued for all gifts after year-end.

Youth Ministry – Summer Break!

From now until September, our youth ministry will take a summer break so that youth and leaders alike can enjoy a rest and come back refreshed.

Ministries for Children

For children, our Sunday School coordinator Elisabeth Westberg is hosting weekly lessons on Zoom, beginning at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. For information about how to connect over Zoom, please email Elisabeth directly at youth@stjohnsnorway.com.

Weekly Online/Dial-in Bible Study – Thursdays at 1PM – **PASSWORD: 077686**

On Thursdays at 1:00 PM, Fr. Jeffry and Fr. Benjamin are holding a bible study focusing on the gospel passage from the previous Sunday. All you need to participate is a bible and a computer or phone. To join online, follow the link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2035813958>. To dial in on the phone, first dial: 647-558-0588. When prompted, enter the meeting ID: 203 581 3958#. Please refer any questions to Fr. Benjamin (curate@stjohnsnorway.com, 647-608-5608).

Weekly Happy almost-an-Hour – Fridays at 5PM – **PASSWORD: 077686**

On Fridays at 5:00 PM, we are holding "Happy almost-an-Hour!" Grab some snacks, tune into Zoom, and catch up with other parishioners! To join online, follow the link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2035813958>. To dial in on the phone, first dial: 647-558-0588. When prompted, enter the meeting ID: 203 581 3958#. Please refer any questions to Fr. Benjamin (curate@stjohnsnorway.com, 647-608-5608).

Suspension of public worship in church buildings to last until September

In a letter to parishes sent out last week, the Toronto bishops have extended the suspension of public worship in buildings to last until at least September. This upholds the decision in the letter from the Ontario House of Bishops that was distributed the previous week. Dial-in and virtual worship will continue through the summer months until worship in the church building resumes.

To Reach Us

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