

Worship at Home

*Sunday, June 26, 2022 - Third Sunday after Pentecost
The Birth of St. John the Baptist*

Preacher: The Rev. Molly Finlay
Officiant: The Rev. Yohan Dumpala
Music Director: Cara Halpin

via Zoom or Dial-In



Welcome and Gathering of the Community



Opening Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

(CP 505)

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

High King of heaven, when victory is won,
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.



The Collect

Leader Together, let us pray.

All **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.**



Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11 (MSG)

Reader

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

“Comfort, oh comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, but also make it very clear that she has served her sentence, that her sin is taken care of—forgiven! She’s been punished enough and more than enough, and now it’s over and done with.” Thunder in the desert! “Prepare for God’s arrival! Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God. Fill in the valleys, level off the hills, smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks. Then God’s bright glory will shine and everyone will see it. Yes. Just as God has said.” A voice says, “Shout!” I said, “What shall I shout?”



Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11 (MSG)

Reader

“These people are nothing but grass, their love fragile as wildflowers. The grass withers, the wildflowers fade, if God so much as puffs on them. Aren’t these people just so much grass? True, the grass withers and the wildflowers fade, but our God’s Word stands firm and forever.” Climb a high mountain, Zion. You’re the preacher of good news. Raise your voice. Make it good and loud, Jerusalem. You’re the preacher of good news. Speak loud and clear. Don’t be timid! Tell the cities of Judah, “Look! Your God!” Look at him! God, the Master, comes in power, ready to go into action. He is going to pay back his enemies and reward those who have loved him. Like a shepherd, he will care for his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms, Hugging them as he carries them, leading the nursing ewes to good pasture.
The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.



Reading

Luke 1:57-80 (MSG)

Reader

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

When Elizabeth was full-term in her pregnancy, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives, seeing that God had overwhelmed her with mercy, celebrated with her. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and were calling him Zachariah after his father. But his mother intervened: “No. He is to be called John.” “But,” they said, “no one in your family is named that.” They used sign language to ask Zachariah what he wanted him named. Asking for a tablet, Zachariah wrote, “His name is to be John.” That took everyone by surprise. Surprise followed surprise—Zachariah’s mouth was now open, his tongue loose, and he was talking, praising God! A deep, reverential fear settled over the neighborhood, and in all that Judean hill country people talked about nothing else.



Reading

Luke 1:57-80 (MSG)

Reader

Everyone who heard about it took it to heart, wondering, “What will become of this child? Clearly, God has his hand in this.” Then Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he came and set his people free. He set the power of salvation in the center of our lives, and in the very house of David his servant, just as he promised long ago through the preaching of his holy prophets: deliverance from our enemies and every hateful hand; mercy to our fathers, as he remembers to do what he said he’d do, what he swore to our father Abraham—a clean rescue from the enemy camp, so we can worship him without a care in the world, made holy before him as long as we live.



Reading

Luke 1:57-80 (MSG)

Reader

And you, my child, “Prophet of the Highest,” will go ahead of the Master to prepare his ways, present the offer of salvation to his people, the forgiveness of their sins. Through the heartfelt mercies of our God, God’s Sunrise will break in upon us, shining on those in the darkness, those sitting in the shadow of death, then showing us the way, one foot at a time, down the path of peace. The child grew up, healthy and spirited. He lived out in the desert until the day he made his prophetic debut in Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.



The Reflection: The Rev. Molly Finlay



What We Believe

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All **We believe and trust in him.**

Leader This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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 on our website.

Leader Together let us pray.

All Dear God, thank you for all that you give us.
We faithfully give back to you just a portion of what you bless us with. Thank you for teaching us to be generous and for giving us grateful hearts. Amen.



Prayers of the People, led by The Rev. Yohan Dumpala



The Confession

Leader Beloved in Christ, Jesus the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

All **We confess to you, Heavenly Father, how unlike you we are in our attitudes and actions. We strive for recognition and acclaim from others. We look out for our own needs and concerns, failing to care for others except when it serves our own purposes. Forgive us our sins and renew our hearts. Show us how we can only achieve greatness and gain our lives by giving them away. Work in us the power of your Holy Spirit so we become more like you and so bring glory to our Father in heaven. This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Prayer of Pardon

Leader Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

All Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Leader 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.**



The Blessing

Announcements



Closing Hymn

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

(CP 460)

Lord, the light of your love is shining, In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us, shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain:

Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze: set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow: flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness; search me, try me, consume all my darkness, shine on me, shine on me. [Refrain]

As we gaze on your kingly brightness so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story, shine on me, shine on me. [Refrain]



The Dismissal

Leader So now go in peace, remember the poor, be kindly affectioned one to another!

All **Thanks be to God.**

