

**Morning Prayer**  
**Wednesday June 24, 2020**  
**The Nativity of John the Baptist**



**The Invitatory and Psalter**

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

[Psalm 43:3]

**The Confession**

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our

behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

**Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**Opening Versicle & Doxology**

O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise. **And your glory all the day long.**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Venite [Psalm 95:1-7]**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \* **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 molded 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!**

## **Psalm 82**

1 God takes his stand in the council of heaven; \*he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:

2 "How long will you judge unjustly, \* and show favor to the wicked?

3 Save the weak and the orphan; \* defend the humble and needy;

4 Rescue the weak and the poor; \* deliver them from the power of the wicked.

5 They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness; \*  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 Now I say to you, 'You are gods, \* and all of you children of the Most High;

7 Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, \* and fall like any prince.'"

8 Arise, O God, and rule the earth, \* for you shall take all nations for your own.

## **Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino***

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, \* for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm \* has he won for himself the victory.

3 The Lord has made known his victory; \*

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \* / lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \* with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \* shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \* the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \* and the peoples with equity.

## **The Lessons**

### **The First Lesson: A Reading from the Prophet Malachi [3:1-5]**

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them

like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup> Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

### **Canticle: The Song of Zechariah [Luke 1: 68-79]**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, \*

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

### **The Second Lesson: The Gospel of John [3:22-30]**

22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized— 24 John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. 25 Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. 26 They came to John and said to him, 'Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.' 27 John answered, 'No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. 28 You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, "I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him." 29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.'

## **The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \* in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,\*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,\* and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \* to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

## **The Apostle's Creed**

**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.**

## **The Prayers**

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray. God be with you. **And also with you.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Suffrages**

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

**R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

V. Look upon your congregation;

**R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

**R. And your wonders among all peoples.**

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

**R. Never forget the lives of your poor.**

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

**R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Savior by preaching repentance: Make us so to follow his teaching and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and, following his example, constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for an end to racism**

O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need. Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy purpose. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with compassionate understanding and unity. Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **A Prayer for those who have died from Coronavirus**

Lord, your ways are mysterious, and your purposes unknowable. But that of which we can be sure is that when we feel sorrow, you feel sorrow, too. That when we suffer, you also suffer. That when we mourn, you mourn, as well. That when our hearts are broken, so is yours. Lord, we feel that sorrow now, that suffering now, that mourning now, and our hearts are breaking now that in this nation more than 110,000 of our sisters and brothers have already been taken

from us by this disease. Yet, we know that your Son who suffered death itself for us, is by our side, and shares our burden. So, Lord, comfort those who have lost, protect those who remain, and take those you have gathered into that greater light where pain, and suffering, and death itself exist no more. **Amen**

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Be O Lord, a guiding star above us, a smooth path below us, a kindly shepherd behind us and a bright flame before us; today, tonight and forever. **Amen.**