

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 3
Sunday of All Saints of Rus'-Ukraine
The Nativity of the Honourable Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer
John

Please note: The propers for this Sunday are prepared with the Nativity of St. John as a patronal feast.

GREAT VESPERS

At Psalm 140

In Tone 3

10.

By Your Cross, O Christ our Saviour,
the power of Death has been vanquished
and the deceit of the devil has been destroyed.
Therefore, mankind, saved by faith,
offers You hymns of praise forever.

9.

O Lord, all creation has been enlightened by Your resurrection,
and Paradise has been reopened;
therefore, all creation extols You
and offers You hymns of praise forever.

8.

I glorify the powers of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
and I praise the dominion of the undivided Divinity,
the consubstantial Trinity,
Who reigns forever and ever.

In Tone 4

7.

When John was born, the silence of Zechariah was broken.
For when the Voice appeared, it was not proper that his father remain silent.
Just as disbelief bound the tongue of the father,
so now the appearance of John frees him.
Having revealed himself, he preaches good tidings to all.
The Forerunner of Light and the Voice of the Word is born,
and he prays for the salvation of our souls.

6.

Today the Voice of the Word frees his father's voice
which was lost through disbelief,

and he reveals the blessed posterity of the Church
by loosing his mother's bond of barrenness.
The Lamp preceding the Light appears;
the star proclaims the coming of the Sun of Justice
who is the restoration of all
and the salvation of our souls.

5.

When the time approached for the Word of God to be born from a Virgin,
a messenger came forth from a barren womb.
He is the greatest born of woman
and the greatest of the prophets.
Behold, the beginnings of God's actions are beyond our understanding.
You were begotten eternally and conceived without seed;
you work wonders for our salvation. Glory to you!

4.

Today the great Forerunner appears,
born from the barren womb of Elizabeth.
He is a prophet greater than all prophets;
there is no other like him, nor has there ever been.
For the most wondrous Light followed the lamp of the Forerunner;
the Word followed the Voice,
and the Bridegroom followed the bridegroom's friend.
He prepares a special people for the Lord,
cleansing them with water until the coming of the Spirit.
He is the offspring of Zechariah and the noble dweller of the desert,
the preacher of repentance, and the purification of sins.
He announced the good news
of the Resurrection from the dead to those in Hades,
and he prays for our souls.

In Tone 1

3.

O St. Olga, morning star of Christ's gospel proclaimed in the city of Kyiv,
and St. Volodymyr, equal-to-the-Apostles, Baptizer of Rus'-Ukraine,
and all holy princes, God-pleasing leaders of our nation!
By your holy lives you opened the doors of truth and grace.
You strengthened the Church of Christ in our Ukrainian lands.
You are our constant protectors and intercessors, our honour and glory.
Therefore, may your names shine forth forever,
and may they be for us an inspiration to faithfulness
and perseverance in the holy faith,
for the salvation of our souls.

2.

All the choirs of the hierarchs, mighty luminaries of the Ukrainian Church!
As faithful followers of the apostles and as good shepherds,
you faithfully preserved the flock entrusted to you;
you led it along paths of truth and carefully fed it with spiritual food,

not hesitating to give up your lives for your sheep.
Therefore, together with St. Josaphat, the priest-martyr,
implore the Chief Shepherd, Christ God,
for Ukrainian nation's faithfulness to His commandments
and great mercy for our souls.

1.

Venerable fathers of the Monastery of the Caves, Anthony and Theodosius,
the first flowers of the Ukrainian Church,
and all the countless righteous ones who followed after their steps,
dedicating their lives to God!
You shine forth as an example of Christian perfection,
and you teach us by prayer and self-denial
to configure ourselves to Christ God for the salvation of our souls.
Therefore, implore the good God, that we may be made worthy of your intercession,
and that together with you, through prayer and sacrifice,
we may obtain for Christ's Church and our Ukrainian nation
mercy and God's bountiful blessings.

In Tone 6, Glory...

Today, like a shining star,
the Lamp prepares the way for the coming of the Word of God.
Today Zechariah speaks clearly, ending the silence imposed by the angel,
for it was not right that the father of the Voice be kept silent
once John was born from a barren womb.
He comes to announce with great boldness
the good news of salvation for all the world.

In Tone 3, Now...

O Lady most honourable,
how can we but be rapt in wonder
at you giving birth to the Incarnate God
who, without a mother, was born of the Father before all ages?
You gave Him birth in the flesh without a father,
without a man instrumentality.
He is God and man whose two natures are intact,
neither one losing any of its properties.
Therefore, O Virgin Mother,
intercede with Him to save the souls
of those who believe and confess in true faith
that you are the Mother of God.

Readings

1. Genesis 17:15-19; 18:11-14; 21:1-8
2. Judges 13:2-19
3. Isaiah 40:1-3, 9; 41:17-18
4. Sirach 34:13-17
5. Wisdom 3:1-9

6. Sirach 1:11-21

Litya

In Tone 1

O mountains, give forth your sweetness;
O hills, skip about like lambs;
for today the Lord's forerunner, desiring to abide with us, is born of Elizabeth.
At his birth he loosed his father's silence.
Therefore, let us cry out to him:
O Baptizer of Christ, implore Him to save our souls.

The God-named Voice and Lamp of the Light, the Forerunner of the Lord,
was attested to by Christ as the foremost of the prophets.
Please remember your flock in order to preserve it intact,
and we also ask that you pray for the world.

O prophet and forerunner John,
you were the preacher of the Lamb who is the Word of God.
You prophesied the future;
you spoke beforehand to the ends of the earth:
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
and grants great mercy to all.

In Tone 5, Glory...

Today Elizabeth rejoices as she gives birth
to the end of the prophets and the beginning of the apostles,
the earthly angel and the heavenly man,
the voice of the Word, the soldier and forerunner of Christ,
who leaped for joy beforehand because of the Promised One
and who preached before the birth of the Sun of Justice.
In his old age Zechariah is amazed,
having cast aside the muteness imposed as a punishment.
As the father of the Voice, he prophesies most splendidly:
And you, O child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
and you shall go before Him to prepare the way.
Therefore, O angel, prophet, apostle, and soldier,
forerunner, baptizer, preacher of penance, and guide,
as the voice of the light of the Word,
pray unceasingly for us who faithfully keep your memory.

Now...

O most pure Virgin,
you are the temple, the gate, the palace, and the throne of the King.
Christ, our Redeemer and Lord,
appeared through you to those who slumbered in darkness.
For He, as the Sun of Righteousness,

wished to enlighten those whom He created with his own hands
according to his own image.
Therefore, O Lady, whom we always praise in song,
we beseech you to intercede with Christ for the salvation of our souls;
for, as his mother, you can approach Him with the greatest of confidence.

Aposticha

In Tone 2

With psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
let us praise the glorious desert-dweller John,
since he is the prophet of prophets
and the fruit of a barren womb,
greater than all born of women.
Let us cry out to him:
O Baptist and Forerunner of the Saviour,
by your holy birth you may implore Christ with confidence
to grant peace to the world
and great mercy to our souls.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has visited and ransomed his people.

According to the promise,
John the Forerunner and the Voice of the grace of the Word has appeared.
He was born today of the childless, barren woman.
Rejoice, O people,
for he has come to prepare for us the way of the Saviour
to whom he bowed down and leaped for joy
while still in the womb of his mother.
He is the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world
and grants great mercy to us.

And you, O child, shall be called prophet of the Most High.

John, who was sanctified in the womb of his mother
and received the fullness of prophecy,
is born today from a barren woman.
Clearly he announces the coming of the Lord:
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

In Tone 8, Glory...

Today the voice of the prophet Isaiah is fulfilled
in the birth of the greatest of the prophets, John.
He had said: Behold, I will prepare the way of the Lord.
He will be a soldier of the kingdom of heaven,
running before the path of our God.
By nature he was a man,
yet in the present life he became an angel,

for he welcomed moderation in complete purity.
He had a human nature but fled what was according to nature
and struggled beyond the natural.
Therefore, let all the faithful imitate his virtues
and beg him to pray for the salvation of our souls.

Now...

Elizabeth said to the Virgin Mary:
How is it that the Mother of my God has come to me?
You bear the King, and I, a soldier.
You bear the Lawgiver, and I, a preacher of the law.
You bear the Word, and I, the voice who announces the kingdom of heaven.

Troparia

In Tone 1

Rejoice, Virgin Mary, Mother of God, full of grace,* The Lord is with you.* Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.* For you have borne Christ,* the Saviour and Deliverer of our souls. (2)

In Tone 4

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,* in spite of our honour and devotion,* we are unable to give you worthy praise.* Through your glorious and noble birth* your mother's childlessness was ended,* your father's tongue was freed,* and the Incarnation of the Son of God** was proclaimed to the world.