

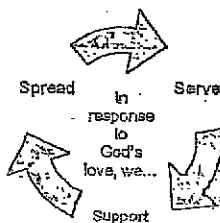
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT:

In response to God's love for us, we SERVE God,
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,
and SPREAD the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.

Volume 74

June 24, 2018

No. 25

THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Order of Worship - 9 AM

AS WE GATHER – Did you notice that today is a birthday? Very few birthdays are remembered on our Church calendar—only two, in fact. Jesus', of course, for that is what Christmas is about, and John's, who prepared His way. Every other saint is commemorated on the death day. John, the name given by the angel, means "God is gracious." John fulfilled the meaning of this name by heralding the arrival of the long-promised Messiah. It was not merely a father's pride that gave a song to Zechariah, John's father. This miracle birth was the signal for a greater miracle—the fulfillment of a promise that went back to Adam and Eve in Eden. Though we call him John the Baptist, perhaps the term "John the Forerunner" best describes him. John was born into a priestly family; his birth was marked by the angel for his special role. In the visit of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth, John kicked in the womb, leaping for joy. As Jesus prepared to begin His public ministry, John began to preach repentance, to baptize, and to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy.

PRESERVICE MUSIC "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People" by Jeffrey Blersch

WELCOME

[Please fill out prayer request cards.]

[♯Means please stand; ♯Means please be seated]

OPENING HYMN

Salvation Is Forever Nigh

WINCHESTER NEW

Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien,

Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Hamburg, 1690, alt.



1 Sal - va - tion is for - ev - er nigh The souls that
2 Mer - cy and truth on earth are met, When Christ the
3 Now truth and hon - or shall a - bound, And faith shall
4 His righ - teous - ness has gone be - fore To give us
5 Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n To Fa - ther,

(continued)



fear and trust the Lord And grace de - scend - ing
Lord came down from heav'n; By His o - be - dience
dwell on earth a - gain; And heav'n - ly mer - cy
free ac - cess to God; That wan - d'ring feet shall
Spir - it, and to Son; Who was, and is, and



from on high Fresh hope of glo - ry shall af - ford.
so com - plete, Jus - tice is pleased and peace is giv'n.
touch the ground In our Re - deem - er's gen - tle reign.
stray no more, But mark His steps and keep the road.
comes a - gain, Di - vine, e - ter - nal, Three in One.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 1:68, 77-79, adapted

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen.**
- P** *Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,*
- C** **for He has visited and redeemed His people.**
- P** *He had given the knowledge of salvation to His people*
- C** **in the forgiveness of their sins.**
- P** *Because of the tender mercy of our God,*
- C** **those who sit in sin's darkness and in the shadow of death find peace.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** *Come, let us confess our sins to God our Father.*
- C** **O merciful Lord, we confess that we are an unclean people who have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed and who have sinned against one another. The good Your Law requires we have not done, and the evil You forbid we have done. We are truly sorry for our sins and beg You for the sake of Your mercy and Your Son, Jesus Christ, to forgive us all our sins, give us a clear conscience, and fill us with the desire to do Your will. Grant us Your grace so that we are prepared to hear Your Word and receive Your Holy Sacrament to amend our sinful lives, love You above all things, and love our neighbor as ourselves. Amen.**
- P** *Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon You and has sent His only Son, who suffered for us to forgive us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen.**

INTROIT FOR THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN

- P** Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me.
C And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.
P Blessèd be the Lord God of Israel,
C for he has visited and redeemed his people.
P And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
C for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
P to give knowledge of salvation to his people
C in the forgiveness of their sins,
P because of the tender mercy of our God,
C whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
P to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
C to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me.
C And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Prepare the Royal Highway



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

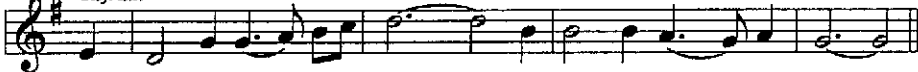


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.

All: By Your gracious visitation, O Lord, You have given us grace upon grace and mercy beyond measure. In the wilderness of our sin, You sent forth the prophets to call us to repentance and to remind us of Your promised salvation. As once You raised up John to be the voice to prepare Your way, raise up voices in our own age, that those who have not heard may come to know Jesus Christ as Lord by the preaching and teaching of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us share this peace with one another.*

(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1–5

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

L *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

Acts 13:13–26

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

L *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

Luke 1:17a, d

All: Alleluia. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to make ready for the Lord a people prepared. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:57–80

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.*

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

HYMN OF THE DAY

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er

(continued)

saith our God; "Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness, Mourn-ing
 dark mis-deed; All that well de-served His an-ger He no
 far and near, Call-ing sin-ners to re-pen-tance, Since the
 plac-es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum-ble, As be-

'neath their sor-rows' load. Speak ye to Je-ru-sa-lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf-fered man-y a day,
 King-dom now is here. O that warn-ing cry o-bey!
 fits His ho-ly reign. For the glo-ry of the Lord

Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a-way; God will change her
 Now pre-pare for God a way; Let the val-leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a-broad, And all flesh shall

sins I cov-er And her war-fare now is o-ver."
 pin-ning sad-ness In-to ev-er-spring-ing glad-ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to-ken That His Word is nev-er bro-ken.

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SERMON "GOD'S GRACIOUS VISITATION" **Luke 1:57-80**

- I. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the people to receive His word of salvation in Jesus.
- II. God sends us out into our world to do the same thing.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING "Down from His Glory" **by Eduardo di Capua**

OFFERTORY [sing twice] **I Love You, Lord**

I love You, Lord, _____ and I lift my voice _____ to wor-ship



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INSTALLATION OF VBS STAFF

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** *In peace let us pray to the Lord, on behalf of His Church, for the world, and for all people as they have need. O Mighty Lord, as once You raised up a horn of salvation in Your Son and set apart a prophet to prepare His way, raise up voices in our own time to proclaim Your gracious visitation and the revelation of Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, that those who live in darkness walk in His light. Let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *O Gracious God, Your grace has been shown to generation after generation, and Your mercies are new every morning. Lead us to faith, that we trust not in our works but solely in Your favor, made known through Your Son. Give us courage for the way, hope in Your Word, and confidence that what You began in us, You will bring to completion on the day of our Lord. Let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *O Holy Lord, You have placed Your promise upon Your people. Protect Your Church from all her enemies, strengthen her unity in doctrine and life, and keep her faithful amid so many distractions. Bless all whom You have made Yours through Baptism, and keep them in faith and repentance until our Lord returns in glory. Let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *O God of power and might, all power is Yours in heaven and on earth. Bless us with good and wise leaders and make them faithful to Your leading for the cause of peace and for the sake of those most vulnerable. Give special protection to those whose work is dangerous and to all who protect us on Your behalf among our police, armed forces, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel. Let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *O Compassionate Lord, You claim our wounds and You suffer for us for our salvation. Be with those who suffer afflictions of body, mind, and spirit, and especially those near death, [including . . .]. Give them courage in trial, comfort in pain, relief from suffering, and healing according to Your will, until You bring us at last to the place where afflictions will trouble us no more. Let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *O Giving Lord, You have so richly equipped us with abilities and resources. Help us to use them for Your glory in ways that honor You and serve Your purpose. Receive the tithes and offerings we bring this day as part of our worship, praise, and thanksgiving. Let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P Remembering Your mercy shown to Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John, and all those who trusted in Your mercy and have now entered Your rest, we give You thanks and praise, looking forward to the day when we enjoy the blest reunion before Your face. Until that day, guard our hearts and minds that we not depart from Your Word nor fail to proclaim Your mercy to every generation. Let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord, have mercy.

P These and whatsoever things we should ask, we ask You to give to us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

G Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

G 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace. **G** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

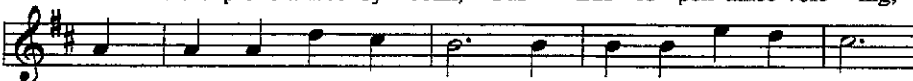
When All the World Was Cursed



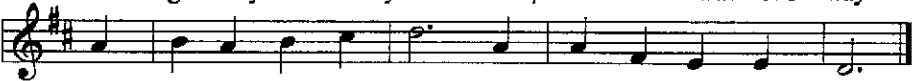
1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Birthdays: Bob Jackson & Dorothy Vandrei]

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Gavotte”

by Henry Purcell

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THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE
KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 AM

July 1: ***“Truly the Worship of God”***; Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, Guest Speaker

When you get out of your religious comfort zone and meet people who don't know Jesus, you have opportunity to grow in faith and witness. (Acts 10:34-48)