

JUNE 24, NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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The day of the death of other saints is kept as their feast, and in the case of St. John the Baptist the day of his birth is celebrated, as having taken place amidst the outpouring of the gifts of the Paraclete. The feast is celebrated with great liturgical splendor, the stational Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of the Saviour. This grandeur of early devotion to the Baptist need cause no one to wonder, if we realize the eminent position which St. John holds in the history of the Incarnation. His seal of canonization is seen in the eulogy addressed to him by the Word of God Himself made man, when He pointed him out to the people as the greatest among all the prophets, and among all those born of woman, the new Elias, the burning and shining light.

INTROIT Isaiah 49: 1-2

De ventre matris meæ vocávit me Dóminus in nómine meo: et pósuit os meum ut gládium acútum: sub teguménto manus suæ protéxit me, et pósuit me quasi sagíttam eléctam. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo, Altíssime. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. De ventre matris meæ vocávit me Dóminus in nómine meo: et pósuit os meum ut gládium acútum: sub teguménto manus suæ protéxit me, et pósuit me quasi sagíttam eléctam.

COLLECT

Deus, qui præsentem diem honorábilem nobis in beáti Joánnis nativítate fecísti: da pópulis tuis spirituálium grátiam gaudiórum; et ómnium fidélium mentes dirige in viam salútis æternæ. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Isaiah 49: 1-3, 5-7

Audíte, insulæ, et attendíte, pópuli, de longe: Dóminus ab útero vocavit me, de ventre matris meæ recordátus est nóminis mei. Et pósuit os meum quasi gládium acútum: in umbra manus suæ protéxit me, et pósuit me sicut sagíttam eléctam: in pháetra sua abscondit me. Et dixit mihi: Servus meus es tu, Israël, quia in te gloriabor. Et nunc dicit Dóminus, formans me ex útero servum sibi: Ecce, dedi te in lucem géntium, ut sis salus mea usque ad extrémum terræ. Reges vidébunt, et consúrgent príncipes, et adorábunt propter Dóminum et sanctum Israël, qui elégit te.

GRADUAL Jeremiah 1: 5, 9

Priúsquam te formárem in útero, novi te: et ántequam exíres de ventre, santificávi te. Misit Dóminus manum suam, et tétigit os meum, et dixit mihi.

LESSER ALLELUIA Luke 1: 76

Allelúja, allelúja. Tu, puer, Prophéta Altíssimi vocáberis: præíbis ante Dóminum paráre vias ejus. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 1: 57-68

Elísabeth implétum est tempus pariéndi, et péperit fílium. Et audierunt vicini et cognáti ejus, quia magnificávit Dóminus misericórdiam suam cum illa, et congratulábántur ei. Et factum est in die octávo, venérunt circumcidere púerum, et vocábant eum nómine patris sui Zachariám. Et respóndens mater ejus, dixit: Nequáquam, sed vocábitur Joánnes. Et dixerunt ad illam: Quia nemo est in cognatióne tua, qui vocátur hoc nómine. Innuébant autem patri ejus, quem vellet vocári eum. Et pósulans pugillárem, scripsit, dicens: Joánnes est nomen ejus. Et miráti sunt univérsi. Apértum est autem illico os ejus et lingua ejus, et loquebátur benedícens Deum. Et factus est timor super omnes vicinos eórum: et super ómnia montána Iudææ divulgábántur ómnia verba hæc: et posuérunť omnes, qui audierant in corde suo, dicéntes: Quis, putas, puer iste erit? Etenim manus Dómini erat cum illo. Et Zacharías, pater ejus, repletus est Spíritu Sancto, et prophetávit, dicens: Benedíctus Dóminus, Deus Israël, quia visitávit et fecit redemptiόνem plebis suæ.

OFFERTORY Psalms 91: 13

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus, quæ in Líbano est, multiplicábitur.

SECRET

Tua, Dómine, munéribus altária cumulámus: illíus nativítatem honóre débito celebrántes, qui Salvatórem mundi et cécinít ad futúrum et adésse monstrávit, Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Luke 1: 76

Tu, puer, prophéta Altíssimi vocáberis: præíbis enim ante fáciem Dómini paráre vias ejus.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sumat Ecclésia tua, Deus, beáti Joánnis Baptístæ generatióne lætítiam: per quem suæ regeneratiónis cognóvit auctórem, Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

From the womb of my mother the Lord hath called me by my name, and He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hath protected me, and hath made me as a chosen arrow. (Ps. 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord, and to sing to Thy name, O Most High. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. From the womb of my mother the Lord hath called me by my name, and He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hath protected me, and hath made me as a chosen arrow.

O God, Who hast made this day honorable to us on account of the birth of blessed John, grant Thy people the grace of spiritual joys, and direct the minds of all the faithful in the way of eternal salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Give ear, ye islands, and harken, ye people from afar. The Lord hath called me from the womb, from the bowels of my mother He hath been mindful of my name. Arid He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He hath protected me, and hath made me as a chosen arrow; in His quiver He hath hidden me. And He said to me: Thou art My servant Israel, for in thee will I glory. And now saith the Lord that formed me from the womb to be His servant: Behold I have given thee to be the light of the Gentiles, that thou mayest be My salvation even to the farthest part of the earth. Kings shall see, and princes shall rise up, and adore for the Lord's sake, and for the Holy One of Israel Who hath chosen thee.

Before I formed thee in the bowels of thy mother, I knew thee: and before thou camest forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee. The Lord put forth His hand, and touched my mouth: and said to me.

Alleluia, alleluia. Thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest; thou shalt go before the Lord to prepare His ways. Alleluia.

Elizabeth's full time of being delivered was come, and she brought forth a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had showed His great mercy towards her, and they congratulated with her. And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they called him by his father's name, Zachary. And his mother answering, said Not so, but he shall be called John. And they said to her: There is none of thy kindred that is called by that name. And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And demanding a writing-table, he wrote, saying: John is his name: and they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed; and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came upon all their neighbors; and all these things were noised abroad over all the hill country of Judea; and all they that had heard them, laid them up in their heart, saying: What a one, think ye, shall this child be? For the hand of the Lord was with him. And Zachary his father was filled with the Holy Ghost; and he prophesied, saying: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; because He hath visited, and wrought the redemption of His people.

The just man shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow up like the cedar of Lebanon.

We heap Thine altars with gifts, O Lord, celebrating with fitting honor the nativity of him who heralded the coming of the Savior, and pointed Him out when He had come, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son: Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord, to prepare His ways.

May Thy Church, O God, be joyful at the birth of blessed John the Baptist: through whom she knew the Author of her regeneration, our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son: Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.