**SUNDAY, JUNE 24 Tone 3**

**4th Sunday after Pentecost/ Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 3**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee.

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice.

Hear me, O Lord.

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 3**  *(for the Resurrection)*

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Savior,

death’s dominion has been shattered;

the devil’s delusion destroyed.

The human race, being saved by faith,//

always offers Thee a song.

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising Thee,//

always offers Thee a song.

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//

the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

*(for the Resurrection, by Anatolios)*

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ,

and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection,//

for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 4** *(from the Menaion, by John the Monk)*

John is born, ending Zachariah’s silence.

The father cannot keep silent, when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born.

When at first he did not believe, his tongue was silenced,

but now John has been born to free his father:

the one who heard the good news,

and from whom was born the voice of the Word, //

the Forerunner of Light, who always intercedes for our souls.

*v. (5) For Thy name's sake I have waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Today the voice of the Word is born,

releasing Zachariah’s silence,

revealing the harvest of the Church,

loosing the bonds of barrenness.

The candlestick of the Light is drawing near.

The ray of the Sun proclaims His coming//

for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 4** *(by Anatolius)*

The messenger of God’s Word comes forth from the womb:

the greatest among those born of women;

the most high of the Prophets.

Wonderful events precede the divine mystery:

a seedless conception; a marvelous birth!//

Glory to Thee, Who hast worked miracles for our salvation!

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 4** *(by Andrew of Crete)*

Today the great Forerunner comes from the barren womb of Elizabeth;

the great Prophet of Prophets, whom none surpass in greatness.

The radiant candlestick of the Light; the voice of the Word,

the friend of the Bridegroom, preparing the Lord’s chosen people

by purifying them with water before the coming of the Spirit.

He is Zachariah’s offspring,

the child of the wilderness,

the preacher of repentance, and the cleanser of sins.

He announced the Resurrection even to those in hell,//

and he always prays for our souls.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Today the Prophet and Forerunner appears from the womb:

John, the Baptizer of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When he saw the Queen come to the handmaid,

bearing in her womb the timeless God,//

he leaped in his mother’s womb and sang for joy.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Most glorious wonder!

Zachariah asked the Angel of the Word:

“How can Elizabeth conceive and bear a son?

I am an old man; my wife is advanced in years.”

And for his unbelief, he was condemned to silence,

but today he beholds the birth and resumes his speech,

entering into joy and crying out:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for He has visited and redeemed His people,//

granting to the world great mercy!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6** *(by Byzantius)*

Today, like a shining star, the lamp of the Light,

heralds the coming of the Word of God;

today Zachariah’s silence is loosed,

for the father cannot remain silent at the birth of the Forerunner//

who will proclaim the world’s deliverance with great boldness!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 3**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder

at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?

For without receiving the touch of man,

thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.

The Son born of the Father before eternity

was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.

He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,

but preserved the fullness of each nature.

Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,

to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee//

to be the Theotokos.

**Old Testament Readings**

**Composite 10** *(Genesis 17:15-17, 19,; 18:11-14; 21:1-8)*

**Composite 11** *(Judges 13:2-8, 13-14, 17-18,21)*

**Composite 8** *(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1)*

**4th Sunday after Pentecost/ Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John**

**Litya *(following the sticheron to the Temple, we sing:*)**

**Tone 1**

Drop down sweetness, O mountains,

skip like lambs, O hills,

for the Forerunner of the Lord Who shall dwell in our midst

has been born of Elizabeth

and has ended the silence of his father!

Therefore let us cry aloud to him://

“O Baptist of Christ, intercede for the salvation of our souls!”

O Forerunner of the Lord, O lamp of the Light,

O voice that heralds God,

first witness and martyr of Christ among the Prophets,

who dost intercede on behalf of the world,//

supplicate unceasingly that thy flock be saved unharmed!

Thou wast a herald of the Lamb and Word of God,

O John, Prophet and Forerunner,

foretelling future events and prophesying to the ends of the earth:

“Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world,”

and grants to all great mercy!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 5** *(by Andrew of Crete)*

Elizabeth gives birth today

to the last of the Prophets and first of the Apostles,

and she rejoices.

He is the earthly Angel and heavenly man;

the voice of the Word, the soldier and Forerunner of Christ,

who leaped beforehand, proclaiming the birth of the Sun of

Righteousness.

Zachariah, who in his old age was astonished,

and who was subjected to silence as a discipline,

as father of the Voice, prophesies clearly:

“For thou, O child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Most High,

and shalt go before Him to prepare His ways.”

Therefore, O Angel, Prophet, Apostle, Soldier, Forerunner,

Baptist, Herald of repentance, and Guide of the Light:

as Voice of the Word, ceaselessly intercede for us,//

who faithfully keep thy memory!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 5** *(Theotokion)*

Most precious Virgin!

Thou art the gate, the temple,

the palace, the throne of the King!

From Thee, my Redeemer, Christ the Lord appeared to those

asleep in darkness.

He is the Sun of Righteousness,

Who desired to enlighten His image, whom He had created.

Since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him,

O all-praised Lady,//

pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

**4th Sunday after Pentecost/ Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist, John**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 3**  *(for the Resurrection)*

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,

but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//

Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,

enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.

Delivered from Adam’s curse, we sing://

O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

*v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Thou art the changeless God,

Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.

Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.

It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.

By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//

Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

*v. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,

to deliver the human race from death.

Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,

raising with thyself those who knew Thee as God//

and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8** *(by Cassia the Nun)*

Today the voice of Isaiah the Prophet is fulfilled

in the birth of John, the greatest of Prophets.

He said: “Behold, I will send my Angel before Thy face, to prepare Thy

Way!”

Now the warrior of the heavenly King has come.

He truly will prepare the way for our God.

He is a man by nature, but an angel in manner of life,

He embraced purity and chastity forever,

so they are now his by nature.

Let all of us the faithful greet him, crying://

“Pray for us, that our souls may be saved!”

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8** *(Theotokion)*

O unwedded Virgin,

who ineffably didst conceive God in the flesh.

O Mother of God most high,

accept the cries of thy servants, O blameless one!

Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//

Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

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***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 3** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 4** **Troparion**  *(Nativity of St John the Baptist)*

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,

although we cannot praise thee worthily,

we honor thee in love at thy nativity,

for by it thou hast ended thy father’s silence and thy

mother’s barrenness,//

proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,

through thee, O Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:

God incarnate by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,

by which He resurrected the first-created man,//

saving our souls from death.

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***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,//

for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. *(twice)*

**Tone 4** **Troparion**  *(Nativity of St John the Baptist)*

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,

although we cannot praise thee worthily,

we honor thee in love at thy nativity,

for by it thou hast ended thy father’s silence and thy

mother’s barrenness,//

proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

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***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 3** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

**Tone 4** **Troparion**  *(Nativity of St John the Baptist)*

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,

although we cannot praise thee worthily,

we honor thee in love at thy nativity,

for by it thou hast ended thy father’s silence and thy

mother’s barrenness,//

proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

**Tone 3** **Kontakion**  *(Resurrection)*

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,

leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

**Tone 3** **Kontakion**   *(Nativity of St John the Baptist)*

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ’s Forerunner,

who is the fulfillment of every prophecy;

for in the Jordan,

when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the Prophets,//

he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing

praises! *(Ps 46/47:6)*

*v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

*(Ps 46/47:1)*

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him. *(Ps 63/64:10)*

**Epistle**

Romans 6:18-23

Romans 13:11-14:4 *(Forerunner)*

**Tone 3**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps 30/31:1)*

*v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me!*

*(Ps 30/31:2)*

**Tone 1**

*v. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. (Luke 1:68)*

**Gospel**

Matthew 8:5-13

Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80 *(Forerunner)*

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! *(Ps 148:1)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil

tidings. *(Ps 111/112:6b-7a)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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