

JUNE 24

Afterfeast of Pentecost

Nativity of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John

"Lord I Call..." Tone 1\*

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise  
in Your 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 Your Name!*

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.*

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

**Tone 1**      *(from the Pentecostarion) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Moses saw Him-Who-Is on the fiery mountain;  
but now the Spirit has come down upon the wise Apostles.  
They also see God in the form of fire;  
this clearly proves that in both covenants the same God speaks//  
through identical operations of His nature.

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

The divine preachers destroyed the babbling of the godless orators,  
consuming their vanity by the Spirit's fire.  
He came down to baptize them with fiery tongues;  
through them we have been enlightened in the saving waters//  
and in faith confess the Comforter.

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

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\* Note: The hymns from the Pentecostarion presented here follow those presented in Greek editions of the Pentecostarion. Slavonic editions have different hymns for this day.

Long ago You created Your flaming bodiless Angels,  
filling them with the fire of the Spirit,  
but now You have wondrously communed with earthly creatures,  
who serve You in material creation, O my God, //  
singing: "You are wonderful in Your works, O Lover of man."

*V. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 4**     *Idiomela*     *(from the Menaion, for St. John, 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. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope 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. (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 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 You, Who have worked miracles for our salvation!

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

**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. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

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.

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

**Tone 6**      *(from the Menaion, for St. John, 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 2**      *(from the Pentecostarion)*

In Your courts, O Lord,  
we faithful bend the knees of soul and body;  
with songs we proclaim You, O eternal Father and co-eternal Son,  
and all-holy and co-eternal Spirit, //  
Who sanctify and enlighten our souls.

## 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*)

## Aposticha

**Tone 2**     *Idiomela*     (*from the Menaion, for St. John*)

Let us praise John with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
the Prophet of Prophets, the flower of barrenness,  
the citizen of the desert, the greatest among those born of women!  
O Baptizer and Forerunner of the Savior,  
since you have boldness before Christ on the day of your holy birth,  
entreat Him to grant peace to the world, //  
and to our souls great mercy!

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

The Voice of the Word of grace has come:  
the preacher of the Light of Light!  
He is born from the barren womb of Elizabeth.  
Rejoice, O people!  
He comes, preparing the way of salvation for us.  
He leaped in the womb and worshipped his Master:  
the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, //  
and grants us great mercy.

*V. And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High. (Luke 1:76)*

Today John blossoms from his mother's barren womb.  
He becomes the last of the Prophets.  
With boldness, he announces the coming of the Lord: //  
"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

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

**Tone 8**      *(from the Menaion, for St. John, 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 Your face, to prepare Your 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**      *(from the Pentecostarion)*

When You sent Your Spirit  
on the waiting Apostles, O Lord,  
the Hebrews were amazed at the wonder;  
for they heard them speak in foreign tongues,  
which the Spirit gave.  
They were common people, but You made them wise;  
and as they proclaimed the things of God,  
they caught the nations for the life of faith.  
Therefore we also cry aloud to You://  
"O Lord, Who appeared on earth and saved us from error, glory to You!"

*(at Great Vespers)*

**Tone 4**      **Troparion**      *(St. John)*

O Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ,  
although we cannot praise you worthily,  
we honor you in love at your nativity,  
for by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's barrenness,//  
proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8      Troparion    *(Pentecost)***

Blessed are You, O Christ our God,  
You have revealed the fishermen as most wise  
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit,  
and through them You drew the world into Your net.//  
O Lover of Man, glory to You!

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

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**Tone 4      Troparion    *(St. John)***

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we honor you in love at you nativity,  
for by it you ended your father's silence and your mother's barrenness,//  
proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

**Tone 3      Kontakion    *(St. John)***

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 8      Kontakion    *(Pentecost)***

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues,  
He divided the nations;  
but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity.//  
Therefore, with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

**Tone 8      Prokeimenon    *(Pentecostarion)***

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends  
of the universe. *(Ps. 18:4)*

*V. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His  
handiwork. (Ps. 18:1)*

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon    *(St. John)***

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him. *(Ps. 63:11a)*

### **Epistle**

(112) Romans 13:11-14:4 *(St. John)*

### **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth. (Ps. 32:6)*

*V. The Lord looked down from heaven, and saw all the sons of men. (Ps. 32:13)*

### **Tone 1**

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

### **Gospel**

(1) Luke 1-25, 57-68, 76, 80 *(St. John)*

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

Rejoice, O Queen, glory of mothers and virgins!  
No tongue, however sweet or fluent, is eloquent enough to praise you worthily.  
Every mind is overawed by your childbearing.  
Therefore, with one voice, we glorify you.

### **Communion Hymn**

Let Your good Spirit lead me on a level path! *(Ps. 142:12a)*

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil  
tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.