

**JUNE 24**

**Day of the Holy Spirit**

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

**Vespers (sung immediately after the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost)**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4\***

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!*

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

**Tone 4**     *Idiomela*     *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Today in the city of David

all the nations beheld glorious wonders,

when the Disciples of Christ had gathered together,

and the Holy Spirit came down in tongues of fire,

as Luke, inspired of God, records:

“A sound came like the rushing of a mighty wind;

it filled all the house where they were sitting,

and they all began to proclaim strange words, strange doctrines,//

strange teachings of the Holy Trinity.”

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

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\* Music for the Vespers of Pentecost from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org).

The Holy Spirit was, and is, and ever shall be,  
without beginning, without ending,  
always ranked and numbered with the Father and the Son;  
He is Life and the Giver of life;  
He is Light and the Giver of light;  
all-good and the Fountain of goodness,  
through Him the Father is known, the Son is glorified;  
through Him all people proclaim one power, one ranking,//  
one worship of the Holy Trinity.

*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.*

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life,  
a living Fountain of spiritual gifts,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
all-knowing, upright and good:  
He leads us and washes away our sins.  
He is God, and He makes us gods;  
He is Fire proceeding from Fire,  
speaking and acting and distributing gifts.  
Through Him all the Prophets, Martyrs and Apostles of God are crowned.  
Strange account, strange and wonderful sight://  
fire is divided for distributing gifts.

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

**Tone 4**      *Idiomela*      *(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. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

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

**Tone 4**      *(for St. John, 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. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

**Tone 4**      *(for St. John, 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.

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

**Tone 6**      *(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 6** (from the Pentecostarion)

O heavenly King,  
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,  
Who are everywhere and fill all things;  
Treasury of blessings  
and Giver of life,  
come and abide in us,  
and cleanse us from every impurity, //  
and save our souls, O Good One!

**Tone 7** Great Prokeimenon

Who is so great a God as our God? / You are the God Who does wonders! (Ps. 76:13b)

*V. You have made known Your power among the peoples! (Ps. 76:14a)*

*V. And I said, "Now have I begun; this is the change of the right hand of the Most High." (Ps. 76:10)*

*V. I remembered the works of the Lord; for from the beginning will I remember Your wonders! (Ps. 76:11)*

**Old Testament Readings (St. John)**

**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)

*Then the 1<sup>st</sup> Kneeling Prayer, Augmented Litany, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kneeling Prayer, "Vouchsafe, O Lord...", 3<sup>rd</sup> Kneeling Prayer, and the Evening Litany.*

**Aposticha**

**Tone 3** (from the Pentecostarion)

Now the fiercy tongues  
have become a bright sign for all peoples.  
The Jews, from whom Christ came according to the flesh,  
in their unbelief have fallen from divine grace.  
But we, the peoples of all nations,  
are made worthy of divine light.  
We are strengthened by the words of the Disciples,  
who revealed the glory of the Benefactor and God of all.  
Let us bend our knees and hearts with them,  
since we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit, //  
bowing down in faith to worship the Savior of our souls!

*V. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me! (Ps. 50:10)*

Now the comforting Spirit  
has been poured out on all flesh,  
spreading grace to the faithful,  
beginning with the choir of the Apostles.  
As a pledge of His mighty coming  
He distributed the tongues of fire;  
He gave them to the Disciples  
to the praise and glory of God.  
Spiritually enlightened in our hearts,  
strengthened in faith by the Holy Spirit,//  
let us earnestly pray for salvation for our souls!

*V. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me!  
(Ps. 50:11)*

Now the Apostles of Christ  
are clothed with power from on high.  
The Comforter is renewed in them  
and renews them with newness of knowledge.  
They preach in foreign tongues,  
proclaiming mystical knowledge in lofty words.  
They teach us to worship the Benefactor and God of all  
in His simple, eternal, tri-personal Nature.  
Enlightened by their teaching,  
let us bow down to worship Father, Son, and Spirit,//  
earnestly praying for salvation for our souls!

*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 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, by Leo the Master)*

Come, O people,  
let us worship the Godhead in three Persons:  
the Son in the Father, with the Holy Spirit.  
For the Father timelessly begot the Son, co-eternal and co-enthroned with Him;  
and the Holy Spirit was in the Father and is glorified with the Son.  
We worship one Power, one Essence, one Godhead,  
and we say: "Holy God,  
Who created all things through Your Son  
with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit;  
Holy Mighty,  
through Whom we know the Father;  
and through Whom the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the world;  
Holy Immortal,  
Comforting Spirit,  
Who proceed from the Father and rest in the Son.//  
O Holy Trinity, glory to You!"

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*(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 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!

*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**      *(Feast)*

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 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    *(Feast)***

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.

*(The Trisagion is sung.)*

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon      *(Pentecostarion)***

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

*V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)*

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

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

**Epistle**

(229) Ephesians 5:9-19

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

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy! (Ps. 50:1a)*

*V. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me!  
(Ps. 50:11)*

**Tone 1**

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

**Gospel**

(10) Matthew 4:25-5:13

(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!

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*