

Collect

Almighty God,
by whose providence your servant
John the Baptist
was wonderfully born,
and sent to prepare the way of your
Son our Saviour
by the preaching of repentance:
lead us to repent according to his
preaching
and, after his example,
constantly to speak the truth, boldly
to rebuke vice,
and patiently to suffer for the truth's
sake;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

New Testament Reading

Acts 13.14b-26

¹⁴On the sabbath day Paul and his companions went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.' ¹⁶So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: 'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted

arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance ²⁰for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. ²¹Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. ²²When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." ²³Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; ²⁴before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet."

²⁶My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.'

Psalm 85.7-end

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹² The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading
Luke 1.57-66, 80

⁵⁷The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' ⁶¹They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

ST JOHN

Those in continuing special need of prayer:

Moira and Allan Law, Pat Crowe, Jo Hearn, Ann Kinson,

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

ST MICHAEL

Those newly in need of prayer

Doug Little, Lyn Shiel, Graham Stevens,

Those in continuing special need of prayer:

Steve Baker, Mark Berry, Elizabeth Chapman, Chris Clayton, Dorothy Clayton, Jo Cobb, Dottie Collins, Martin Dewes, Chris Dickerson, Colin Eastwood, Phillip Goodwin, Robert Harris, David Kendrick, Chris Kirk, Alison Knight, the Martel family, Marielouise Oliver, Norah and Arthur Palin, Nick Rutter, Anthony Staples aged 7, Alison Toplis, John Tipper, Sheila Vaughan, Judith Watson, Renee Wellings, Anne Whatson, Felicity Woodfield, Jamie.

Those who have died

Margaret & John Latham (interment of ashes)

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,
whose prophet John the Baptist
proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of
God
who takes away the sin of the world:
grant that we who in this sacrament
have known your forgiveness and
your life-giving love
may ever tell of your mercy and your
peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SERVICE SHEET
20th June
John the Baptist

Canticle A Song of Judith

**You sent forth your Spirit, O God,
and you continue to show mercy to
all.**

**I will sing a new song to my God,
for you are great and glorious,
truly strong and invincible.**

**May your whole creation serve
you,
for you spoke and all things came
to be.**

**You sent forth your Spirit and they
were formed,
for no one can resist your voice.**

**Mountains and seas are stirred to
their depths;
at your presence rocks shall melt
like wax.**

**But to those who fear you,
you continue to show mercy.**

**No sacrifice, however fragrant, can
please you,
but whoever fears the Lord shall
stand in your sight for ever.**

Judith 16. 13-16

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**