

3rd Sunday after Pentecost (June 24/July 7)
Commemoration of the Nativity of the Honorable and Glorious
Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist

VESPERS: Tone 2

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried...

1. Come let us adore the **Word** of God,/ begotten of the Father before the **world** began,/ and **incarnate** of the Virgin **Mary**./ For of His own will He suffered the Cross and submitted to **burial**.// He also rose from the dead and saved me, an **erring** man.
2. Christ, our **Saviour**,/ blotted out the bond that pledged us to the **decrees** of the law/ by nailing it **to** the Cross,/ and He put down the **dominion** of death.// We worship His Resurrection on the **third** day.
3. In common with the Arch**angels**/ let us praise the Resurrection of Christ./ He is the Deliverer and **Saviour** of our souls./ And He will come again in dread glory and great **power**,// to judge the world He **fashioned**.
4. The angel proclaimed Thee, O Master, crucified and **buried**,/ and he said to the **women**:/ 'Come and **see** the place where the **Lord** lay./ For He is risen as He said, because He is **Almighty**.'/ Therefore, we worship Thee Who alone art **immortal**:// Have mercy upon us, O Christ, Thou **Giver** of life.

Stichera for St. John the Baptist (Tone 4)

5. **When** John was born, he loosed the muteness of Zechariah,/ for it was not fitting for the father to be silent when the voice of the **Word** arrived./ But **since**, when the priest had not believed in the beginning, his **tongue** was bound,/ so, when John appeared, he set his **father** free./ To him was announced and born the **voice** of the Word,// the Forerunner of the Light, who **prayeth** for our souls.
6. **Today** the voice of the Word looseth the voice of his **father**,/which was restrained because of his **unbelief**;/ and he showeth forth **fruitfulness** to the Church, loosing the bonds of his mother's **barrenness**./ The lamp of the Light **cometh** forth;/ the splendor of the Sun of righteousness announceth His **coming**,// for the edification of all and the **salvation** of our souls.
7. **When** the Word of God willed to be born of the **Virgin**,/ His angel, the highest of the prophets and greatest born of **women**,/ **issued** forth from **elderly** loins;/ for it was meet that he be the all-glorious beginning of **things** divine:/ an offspring produced past the age of **fertility**,/ a conception accomplished **without** seed./ O Thou Who workest miracles for our **salvation**,// glory **be** to Thee!

8. **Today** the great Forerunner, the greatest of all the **prophets**,/ hath appeared, issuing forth from the barren womb of **Elizabeth**,/ and **there** is none like unto him, nor hath any other such **arisen**;/ for the all-luminous Light followed the lamp of the Forerunner,/ the Word followed the voice, the Bridegroom followed the bridal **attendant**,/ who maketh ready an excellent people **for** the Lord,/ cleansing them beforehand with water in the **Spirit**./ He is the offspring of **Zechariah**,/ the goodly scion of the **wilderness**,/ the preacher of **repentance**,/ the cleanser of sins, who announceth to those in hades the resurrection **of** the dead,// and prayeth **for** our souls.
9. **Thou** wast shown to be a prophet and Forerunner from thy **mother's** womb,/ O John, **Baptist** of Christ,/ leaping **up** and rejoicing within her when thou didst **behold** the Queen,/ bearing the Timeless One Who was begotten of the Father without **mother**,/ coming to her handmaid **and** to thee,// who shone forth from a barren woman and an elderly man according to God's **promise**.
10. O all-glorious **wonder**!/ He who did not believe the word of the **angel**/ who **said** that Elizabeth would conceive and **bear** a son,/ - saying: "How can such a one **give** birth?/ For I am stricken with age, and her womb is **withered** up."/ - and was condemned to muteness for his **unbelief**,/ today beholdeth the **promise** fulfilled./ His silence is broken, and he entereth into gladness, **crying**:/ "Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of **Israel**,/ for Thou hast visited and wrought deliverance for Thy **people**,// granting the world great **mercy**!"

Glory... (Tone 6)

Today the **lamp** of the Light,/ like a radiant star, goeth before the coming of the **Word** of God./ Today the tongue of **Zechariah** is loosed,/ which the angel had commanded to keep **silent**./ For it was thus fitting for the father to hold his tongue in **silence**/ for him who issued forth from the **barren** womb// and with great boldness proclaimeth the deliverance of **all** the world.

Both now & ever... Dogmatikon (Tone 2)

At the coming of grace, the shadow that is the law **passed** away./ Just as the bush that burned was **not** consumed,/ so hast **thou**, Virgin, given birth and **Virgin** remained./ Gone was the **Pillar** of fire,/ and lo, in its stead the Sun of Righteousness **shone** forth.// Behold, instead of Moses, Christ, the **salvation** of our souls.

P. Wisdom. Aright!

C. O Joyful Light...

P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...

P. Wisdom!

R. The reading from the book of Genesis

God said to Abraham: "Sarai thy wife--her name shall not be called Sarai; Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and give thee a son of her, and I will bless him, and he shall become nations, and kings of nations shall be of him." And Abraham fell upon his face, and spake in his

mind, saying: "Shall there be a child to one who is a hundred years old, and shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear?" And God said to Abraham: "Yea, behold, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name Isaac; and I will establish my covenant with him, for an everlasting covenant." And Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in days. And Sarah laughed within herself, saying: "The thing hath not yet happened to me, even until now, and my lord is old." And the Lord God said to Abraham: "Why is it that Sarah hath laughed in herself, saying: 'Shall I then indeed bear? But I am grown old.' Shall anything be impossible with the Lord?" And the Lord God visited Sarah, as He said, and the Lord did to Sarah, as He spake. And Abraham circumcised his son on the eighth day, as the Lord God commanded him. And Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac his son was born to him. And Sarah said: "The Lord hath made laughter for me, for whosoever shall hear shall rejoice with me." And she said: "Who shall say to Abraham that Sarah suckles a child? For I have borne a child in mine old age." And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast the day his son Isaac was weaned.

R. The reading from the Book of Judges

In those days, there was a man of the tribe of Dan, and his name was Manoah, and his wife was barren and bore not. And an angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her: "Behold, thou art barren; yet thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bear a son. But now be very cautious, and drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing. For, lo! thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bear a son. And there shall come no razor upon his head, and the child shall be consecrated to God from birth." And the woman went, and spake to her husband, saying: "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was as of an angel of God, exceeding bright. And he said: 'Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bear a son. And now, drink no wine nor strong drink, and eat no unclean thing; for the child shall be consecrated to God from his birth even unto the day of his death.'" And Manoah prayed to God, and said: "O Lord, let the man of God, whom Thou didst send to me, come to us again, and enlighten us as to what we should do when the child is born." And the angel of the Lord came to Manoah and said: "Of all things concerning which I spake to the woman, she shall beware. She shall eat of nothing that cometh of the vine yielding wine, and let her not drink wine or strong liquor." And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord: "What is thy name, that when what thou hast said will come to pass, we may glorify thee?" And the angel of the Lord said to him: "Wherefore dost thou thus ask after my name, whereas it is awesome?" And the angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife.

R. The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Thus saith the Lord: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith God. Speak, ye priests, to the heart of Jerusalem; comfort her, for her humiliation is accomplished, her sin is put away: for she hath received from the Lord's hand double the amount of her sins. The voice of one is heard crying in the wilderness: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God." O thou who bringest good tidings to Sion, go thou up upon the high mountain; lift up thy voice with strength, O thou who bringest glad tidings to Jerusalem. Lift it up; fear not. I, the Lord God, I will hearken to the poor of Israel, and will not forsake them. But I will open rivers on the mountains, and fountains in the midst of the plain; I will make the desert into a meadow, and a thirsty land springs of water. Let heaven rejoice from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth bring forth and blossom with mercy, and let righteousness shine forth likewise. Utter aloud a voice of joy, and it shall be heard; proclaim it even unto the ends of the earth. Say ye that the Lord hath delivered His servant Jacob. And if they shall thirst, He shall lead them through the desert; He shall bring forth water for them out of the rock. Be glad, thou barren woman who bearest not; break forth and cry, O thou who dost not travail: for more are the children of the desolate than of her who hath a husband.

- P. Augmented Litany
 R. Vouchsafe...
 P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya

Stichera for St. John the Baptist (Tone 1)

Ye mountains, put forth sweetness! / Ye hills, leap up like lambs! / For the Forerunner of the Lord, / who loosed the muteness of his father at his birth, / hath been born of Elizabeth, / desiring to make his abode with us. / Wherefore, we cry aloud to him: // O thou who baptized Christ, entreat Him, that our souls be saved!

O voice who art a sign from God, / candlestand of the Light, Forerunner of the Lord, / thou to whom witness is borne by Christ, / thou foremost of the prophets: / Make supplication in behalf of the world, / and be thou especially mindful of thy flock, // that it be preserved unharmed.

Thou wast a preacher of the Word and Lamb of God, / O prophet and Forerunner John. / Thou foretellest things to come, / and dost prophesy unto the ends of the earth: / Behold, the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sins of the world, // and granteth great mercy unto all!

Glory... (Tone 5)

Today Elizabeth giveth birth to the ultimate prophet, / the first of the apostles, the earthly angel and heavenly man, / the voice of the Word, the soldier and Forerunner of Christ, / who leapt up beforehand in token of the promise, / and before his birth proclaimed the Sun of righteousness; / and she rejoiceth. / Zechariah is astonished in his old age, / putting aside his silence like a bond imposed upon him; / and as the father of the voice he doth manifestly prophesy: / "For thou, O child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High / and shalt go forth to prepare the way for Him." / Wherefore, O angel, prophet, apostle, warrior, / Forerunner, baptizer, preacher and instructor of repentance: / as the voice of the Light and Word, // pray thou unceasingly for us who keep thy memory with faith.

Both now and ever... (Tone 5)

All-hallowed **Virgin**, / Thou art the **Temple** and the Gate, / the **Palace** and the **Throne** of kings. / Christ the Lord Who is my deliverer, / appeared through thee to those asleep in **darkness**, / because **He**, the Sun of **Righteousness**, / wished to give light to the **work** of His hands / fashioned in His own **image**: / as **thou** hast the boldness of a mother **towards** thy Son, // we entreat thee whom all men sing, beg Him to **save** our souls.

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 2)

1. Thy Resurrection, O Christ,/ has given light to **all** the earth/ and has **called** up Thy **creature**./ Therefore, glory to Thee, O **Almighty** God.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious **apparel**.

2. Through Thy rood, O **Saviour**,/ Thou hast done away with the **curse** of the tree,/ and through Thy **burial** Thou hast put down the **dominion** of death,/ and Thou hast enlightened mankind by Thy Resurrection./ Therefore we **cry** to Thee:// Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God, the **Giver** of life.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it **cannot** be moved.

3. Thou, O Christ, didst appear, nailed **upon** the Cross/ having changed the beauty of created things./ And in **cruelty** the soldiers pierced Thy **side** with a lance;/ while the Jews begged that Thy **tomb** might be sealed,/ for they both had no faith in Thy **power**./ But Thou, O Lord, for Thy mercy's sake hast submitted **to** the tomb/ and hast risen on the **third** day.// Therefore, unto Thee be **glory**.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, **forever**.

4. Of Thine own will Thou, O Christ, the **Giver** of life,/ for the sake of mortal man hast endured Thy **passion**/ and hast descended into hell, in mighty **power**,/ snatching as it were from the jaws of a great monster those who **awaited** Thee there,/ granting them an abode in **paradise**./ Therefore to us who give glory to Thy Rising on the **third** day,// grant cleansing of our sins and Thy great **mercy**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

Today is fulfilled the saying of Isaiah the **prophet**/ concerning the birth of the greatest of the **prophets**;/ for he said: "Behold, I shall send mine angel **before** thy face,/ who shall make ready thy path **before** thee."/ This warrior of the King of **heaven**,/ running ahead, truly made the paths **straight** for our God,/ being a man by nature, but an **angel** in his life:/ for, having utterly embraced purity and chastity, he possessed them by **nature**;/ and avoiding that which is unnatural, he struggled **supernaturally**./ Emulating him in his virtues, O ye **faithful**,// let us all pray, that he pray for our **souls** to be saved.

Both now and ever... (Tone 8)

Behold Elizabeth, who said to the Virgin **Mary**:/ "Whence is this to me, O **Mother** of my Lord?/ Thou bearest the King, I the **warrior**;/ thou the Law-giver, I the **upholder** of the law;// thou the Word, I the voice which proclaimeth the kingdom of **heaven**!"

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

Troparion of the forerunner (Tone 4)

O prophet and forerunner of the coming of Christ,/ we who honour thee with love are at a loss how to praise thee worthily;/ for by thy glorious and honored nativity/ thou didst loose the barrenness of her who gaveth birth to thee and the muteness of thy father,// and dost proclaim unto the world the incarnation of the Son of God.

P. Blessing of the loaves
C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord...
Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 2

P. Regular Beginning
P. Great Ectenia
C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 2) x2

When Thou didst descend to death, O life immortal,/ Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead/ and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead/ all the powers of heaven cried out:/ O Giver of life, Christ our God,// Glory to Thee!

Glory... Troparion of the forerunner (Tone 4)

O prophet and forerunner of the coming of Christ,/ we who honour thee with love are at a loss how to praise thee worthily;/ for by thy glorious and honored nativity/ thou didst loose the barrenness of her who gaveth birth to thee and the muteness of thy father,// and dost proclaim unto the world the incarnation of the Son of God.

Both now and ever... Theotokion (Tone 4)

The mystery hidden from all ages/ and unknown to the **angels**/ was made manifest to those on earth through Thee, O Theotokos:/ God took flesh in a union without **confusion**/ and for our sakes willingly **accepted** the Cross;/ and thereby He raised the **first** formed man// and saved our **souls** from death.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
Glory...

R. Now...
R. Kathisma II
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

The noble Joseph, taking Thine all-pure body down from the Tree and wrapping it in a clean winding-sheet, enclosed it in a new tomb with sweet spices; yet Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

Standing before the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb, the angel cried: "Myrrh is meet for the dead, yet Christ hath shown Himself to be a stranger

to corruption! But cry aloud: The Lord hath risen, granting the world great mercy!"

G/B... Thy mystery, O Mother of God, is most glorious and passeth all understanding, for stamped with the seal of purity and thy virginity inviolate, thou art acknowledged without doubt to be the Mother who indeed hast given birth to the true God. Do thou beseech Him to save our souls.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Without hindering the Jews from sealing the stone of the tomb, in arising Thou didst bestow the rock of faith upon all. O Lord, glory be to Thee!

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

With one accord the choir of Thy disciples rejoiceth with the myrrh-bearing women; and with them we celebrate a common feast to the glory and honour of Thy resurrection. And through them we cry out to Thee, O Lord Who lovest mankind: Grant Thy people great mercy!

G/B... All-blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for by Him Who became incarnate through thee hath hades been made captive, Adam restored, the curse annulled, Eve set free, death slain, and we have been given life. Wherefore, chanting, we cry aloud: Blessed is Christ God Who hath been thus well pleased! Glory be to Thee!

C. Polyeleos

P. Magnification (once only by clergy)

We magnify thee, / O John, Forerunner of the Saviour, / and we honour thine all-glorious birth // from a barren woman.

C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)

P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

After the Passion, when the women went to the tomb to anoint Thy Body, O Christ our God, they saw angels in the sepulcher and were affrighted, for they heard them say that the Lord was risen granting the world great mercy.

R. Sessional Hymns for St. John the Baptist

Now the fruit of Zechariah, the adornment of the desert, the foundation of the prophets, hath sprung forth, bringing gladness noetically to the minds of the faithful; wherefore, the Forerunner of Christ hath appeared, the true witness of His coming. With spiritual songs let us together cry out to the Baptist: O prophet and preacher of the truth, pray thou that we be saved!

O all-praised John, thou wast truly and most gloriously born as the herald of the coming of Christ, the chief of the prophets; and, as the voice of the Word, thou didst cry out: "Repent! The kingdom of heaven is at

hand!" Wherefore, having prepared the way of the Lord, to the ends of the earth thou wast shown to be the Forerunner of grace. O Baptizer and apostle, entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of transgressions unto those who celebrate thy holy memory with love.

Glory... Let the father rejoice. Be glad, O mother, for today thou hast given birth on earth unto a prophet, the Forerunner summoned by God through His promise. The barren woman nurtured the Baptist as a babe, and Zechariah rejoiceth, saying to the infant: "My tongue hath been loosed by thine advent on earth, O candlestand of the Light! A miracle truly all-glorious!"

Both... We ever thank thee, O pure Theotokos who art full of grace, and we magnify and bow down before thee, hymning thy birthgiving and crying out without ceasing: Save us, O almighty Virgin, in that thou art good, and rescue us from the dread accusations of the demons at the hour of trial, that we, thy servants, may not be put to shame.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

I cast the eyes of my heart toward Thee in heaven, O Saviour. Save me by Thine overshadowing.

Have mercy on us who offend Thee greatly every hour, O my Christ, and grant that we may offer Thee repentance before the end.

G/B... It is fitting that the Holy Spirit reign, sanctify and move creation, for He is God, consubstantial with the Father and the Word.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

If the Lord Himself were not with us, who would be preserved whole from the enemy, the slayer of men?

Give not Thy servant over to the teeth of mine enemies, O Saviour, for they move against me like lions.

G/B... The Holy Spirit is the Source of life and worship, for by His power as God He preserveth all created things in the Father by the Son.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

They who hope in the Lord are like a holy mountain: they are in nowise moved by the assaults of the enemy.

Let those who live godly lives stretch not their hands forth to iniquities, for Christ will not withhold His staff from such in His portion.

G/B... Through the Holy Spirit doth all wisdom flow: through Him have the prophets received vision, hath grace come upon the apostles, and have the martyrs been crowned with the endurance of suffering.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 2)

Arouse Thyself, O Lord my God, in the commandment which Thou hast enjoined, / and a congregation of peoples shall surround Thee.

V. O Lord my God, in Thee have I put my hope: Save me.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #3

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...
Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Overwhelming power once laid low the whole army of Pharaoh in the deep,/ and the incarnate Word hath destroyed pernicious sin./ All-glorious is the Lord,// for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The prince of this world, under whom we have enlisted, not having obeyed Thy commandment, was condemned by Thy Cross, O Good One; for the weak one attacked Thee as one mortal, recoiled from the might of Thine authority, and was exposed as weak.

Thou camest into the world, the Deliverer of the human race and Author of life incorruptible; for by Thy resurrection Thou didst break asunder the bonds of death. This do we all glorify, for gloriously hast Thou been glorified.

Theotokion

Thou wast revealed as higher than all creation, visible and invisible, O pure Ever-virgin; for thou gavest birth to the Creator, in that He was well pleased to become incarnate in thy womb. Entreat Him with boldness, to save our souls.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Of old, the immaterial ladder and the strangely solidified path amid the sea revealed thy birthgiving, O pure one, which we all hymn, for it hath been glorified.

The Sun of righteousness passed through the impassable door, thy closed womb, O pure one, and shone forth upon the world, for He hath been glorified.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

The offspring of the barren woman manifestly proclaimeth the birthgiving of the Virgin, preceding the Sun like a magnificent dawn. And he now shineth forth the light of piety and grace upon the whole universe.

"Truly art thou called the prophet of the Most High; for thou goest before the face of Christ, to prepare the way for the Creator!" Zechariah crieth out to thee, his son, upborne by the most Holy Spirit, O all-praised John.

Hearing the words of Gabriel's divine tidings, Zechariah showed himself to be intractable, and was stricken with muteness; but he is suddenly loosed therefrom, for John the Forerunner, the voice of the Word, hath been born.

Theotokion

O most immaculate Theotokos, thou godly city of the King of all, habitation well pleasing unto God, precious treasure: Preserve thine inheritance, which ever praiseth thee and honoreth thy birthgiving with faith.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

The silence of the father is a symbol of the mysteries of the Scriptures of the law; for when grace arrived Moses fell silent. For it was fitting that all fall silent in the presence of the treasure of wisdom which was revealed.

While the priest was censuring in the temple, an angel from on high stood before him and cried out: "I am come unto thee bearing tidings of a strange birthgiving, O elder! For from the barren woman thou shalt receive the baptizer of Christ as your offspring."

Glory... "Wherefore dost thou marvel, O elder? Why standest thou, refusing to believe the one who telleth thee these things? For he is an angel, even if he is in the guise of a man. Be thou therefore mute until the time of the birth of the voice of the Word!"

Both... Thou art the habitation of God and the poetic ladder whereby God hath descended and, assuming our form, hath led our nature up to the heavens. Thee do we all praise as the mediatrix of our salvation.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

I shall open my mouth/ and the Spirit will inspire it,/ and **I** shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and **Mother**:/ I shall be seen radiantly **keeping** feast// and joyfully praising her **wonders**.

Canticle Three

Irmos: The desert, the barren Church of the nations,/ blossomed like a lily at Thine advent, O Lord;// and therein hath my heart been established.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

During Thy suffering creation was altered, beholding Thee, Who founded all by Thy divine gesture, in pauper's form, mocked by the iniquitous.

With Thy hand Thou didst fashion me out of dust, in Thine image; and having descended into hades, O Christ, with Thyself Thou didst raise me up who had again been broken down into the dust of death for my sins.

Theotokion

The ranks of the angels marveled, O most pure one, and the hearts of men have been filled with awe at thy birthgiving; wherefore, we honour thee, the Theotokos, with faith.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

He Who, as the Creator of time, far transcendeth all time, was of His own will formed of thee as a babe, O Virgin.

Let us hymn the womb which is more spacious than the heavens, through which Adam, rejoicing, dwelleth in the heavens.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

The birthgiving of the Master is accomplished through the Virgin, while that of His beloved servant is through an elderly and barren mother; wherefore, - Wonder of wonders! - he goeth on before unto splendor.

The elderly and barren woman kisseth the Virgin Mother, truly recognizing her birthgiving, for the bond of her barrenness hath been loosed by the will of God.

Theotokion

O thou who gavest birth unto God incarnate without having known wedlock, make me steadfast who am beset by the assaults of the passions; For I have none other helper than thee, O all-pure one.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Elizabeth, who before was barren, prefigured Thy Church of the nations, O Christ, and, giving birth most gloriously, she showeth forth as most fertile that which once was seen to be barren.

Making straight the ways of the Lord and preparing His path, O prophet and herald of Christ, thou didst show men the fruits of repentance and didst teach them the way of life.

Glory... Dancing today, Elizabeth holdeth thee in her elderly arms, O Forerunner, and crieth out, uttering the praise: None is as holy as Thou, O Lord our God!

Both... O all-holy Theotokos, thou didst lift the grief of our first parents, giving birth to the Creator of life and Deliverer for us. Him do thou earnestly entreat, that thy flock be saved.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O **M**other of God,/ thou living and **p**lentiful fount,/ give **s**trength to those united in spiritual **f**ellowship,/ who sing hymns of **p**raise to thee:/ And in thy divine **g**lory// vouchsafe unto them crowns of **g**lory.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Forerunner (Tone 3)

Today she who before was barren giveth birth unto the forerunner of Christ,/ and he is the fulfillment of all prophecy;/ for, laying his hand in the Jordan upon Him Who the prophets foretold,// he hath been shown to be the prophet, herald and forerunner of the Word of God.

R. Ikos of the Forerunner

Let us now praise the Forerunner of the Lord, to whom Elizabeth gave birth for the priest through her barren womb, though not seedlessly; for Christ alone passed through an inviolate dwelling without seed. The barren woman gave birth unto John, but did not beget him without the aid of her

husband; but the pure virgin gave birth to Jesus through the overshadowing of the Father and the Spirit of God. The prophet, herald and Forerunner was revealed through the barren woman to the Seedless One.

R. Sessional Hymns

When he was born, the Forerunner, the voice of the Word, splendidly released the voice of Zechariah, and he hath laid bare in the sight of all the barrenness of the law, crying out: "Repent, ye who are on earth, for, lo! Jesus cometh and hath appeared, desiring to deliver all from the primal curse, illumining them with baptism!" Truly this is an all-glorious wonder!

Glory... Like the radiant sun hath the son of Zechariah shone forth upon us through the womb of Elizabeth, and hath loosed the muteness of his father, crying out to all men with great boldness: "Make straight the way of the Lord! For He freeth and saveth those who have recourse unto Him." Entreat Him Whom thou didst preach, O John, that our souls be saved.

Both... By thy divine birthgiving, O pure one, thou hast renewed mortal nature which hath become corrupt through human passions, and hast raised up all from death to the life of incorruption. Wherefore, as is meet, we all call thee blessed, O all-glorious Virgin, as thou didst foretell.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Thou didst come forth from the Virgin,/ neither a mediator nor an angel,/ but Thyself incarnate, O Lord,/ and hast saved me, the whole man; // wherefore, I cry to thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O God my Master, Thou standest before the judgment-seat as one condemned, without crying out, bringing forth judgment in behalf of the gentiles. Thereby Thou hast wrought salvation for the whole world through Thy suffering, O Christ.

Through Thy suffering, O Christ, the weaponry of the enemy failed, and by Thy descent into hades the cities of the adversary were destroyed and the audacity of the tyrant set at naught.

Theotokion

O Theotokos and Mistress, all of us, the faithful, know thee to be the haven of salvation and an immovable rampart; for through thy supplications, thou dost deliver our souls from perils.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Lo! as the dwelling-place of the Lord, the Mother of God, the divine mountain, hath most clearly been exalted far higher than the hosts of heaven.

Having given birth beyond the laws of nature unto Him Who hath dominion over creation, O only Virgin, thou wast vouchsafed a divine calling.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

A mystery precedeth ineffable mysteries, proclaiming release from pain by a new disposition of nature, its correction and deification, O Christ.

Isaiah prophesied that when the Son would become flesh, the Father would say: "Behold, I send before Thy face an earthly angel, the peer of the angels, who crieth out: Glory to Thy power, O Christ!"

I have been born to serve the Master as a servant; for, lo! for this reason have I come, to announce His coming, that the barren and elderly woman who put forth fruit may affirm beforehand the birthgiving of the Virgin.

Theotokion

The womb of the holy Theotokos, in whom it was Thy good pleasure to make Thine abode as in a fragrant dwelling, O all-divine Word of the Father, neither became corrupt nor suffered pain; for she gave birth to Emmanuel: God and man.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Repentance was made accessible through thy nativity, O Forerunner and herald; for thou alone didst preach, crying aloud: "Repent ye! The kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Virginitly is established and chastity is triumphant; the desert rejoiceth, and the world doth celebrate thy nativity, O Forerunner!

Glory... Elizabeth rejoiceth and Zechariah speaketh once again. Both, therefore, become young in their old age and are made luminous through John the voice of the Word.

Both... Of old, the lawgiver saw thee as the bush unconsumed by the fire, and Daniel envisioned thee as a holy mountain, O Mistress who alone art Mother and Virgin.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

He Who sits in glory upon the throne of the **Godhead**,/ Jesus the **true** God,/ is **come** in a **swift** cloud,/ and with His pure hand He has saved **those** who cry:// Glory to Thy **power**, O Lord.

Canticle Five

Irmos: Thou art a Mediator between God and man, O Christ God:/ For by Thee, O Master,/ are we led up out of the night of ignorance to Thy Father,// the Source of light.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst break the audacity of the nations by Thy will, as if they were cedars, O Christ Master, for it was Thy will to be lifted up in the flesh upon the cypress, the pine and the cedar.

When they laid Thee, dead and bereft of breath, in a deep pit, O Christ; yet, wounded, through thy wounds Thou didst raise up with Thyself the forgotten dead who slept in the graves.

Theotokion

Entreat thy Son and Lord, O pure Virgin, that He grant peace unto those who hope in thee and deliverance from the assaults of adversaries unto captives.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O ye clouds, rain down the delight of gladness upon those on earth, for a Child hath been given, He Who hath existed from before time: Our God Who is incarnate of the Virgin.

Light hath shone upon my life and flesh and destroyed the gloom of sin! In latter times the Most High became incarnate of the Virgin without seed.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

The earth hath given rise to the true herald, the voice who preacheth to all, with the tongue of the Spirit, the Son of the Virgin, righteousness from heaven which bendeth down to us in bodily substance.

The Lord hath appointed thee the true luminary of Christ, enlightening all, clothing only those who are His enemies in shame, as in a garment, and forthrightly proclaiming the Word and Son of God.

In godly manner all creation rejoiceth in thy nativity; for thou wast shown to be an earthly angel and a heavenly man, O Forerunner, proclaiming the God of heaven Who became incarnate for us.

Theotokion

He Who is begotten of the Father is born of thee and is ever with thee: the eternal and inseparable Word, the only-begotten Son, Who, in the latter days, is incarnate of the Virgin and the Holy Spirit.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

O Sun of righteousness, Thou hast prepared a star, Thy baptizer John, who today is born according to Thy promise and releaseth the voice of his father.

Utter thou no words of protest, O priestly elder; for Gabriel, the foremost among the archangels, relateth unto thee the mysteries of God, recounting His descent unto us.

Glory... O prophet, herald and Forerunner, offspring of the barren woman, preacher of repentance, lamb of the wilderness, lampstand of the Light: pray thou for all who honour thee with faith.

Both... We hymn thee, O Mistress, Mother of the Creator of all, as the impassable gate, the bush unconsumed, and the unquarried mountain from whom was cut the Stone Who is the One Who was incarnate of thee.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The whole **world** was amazed at thy divine **glory**,/ for **thou**, O Virgin who hast not known **wedlock**,/ hast **held** in thy womb the **God** of all,/ and hast given birth to an **eternal** Son,// Who rewards with salvation all who sing thy **praises**.

Canticle Six

Irmos: Whirled about in the abyss of sin,/ I call upon the unfathomable abyss of Thy loving-kindness:// Lead me out up from corruption, O God.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Righteous One was condemned as a malefactor and nailed to the Tree with iniquitous men, through His blood granting remission to the guilty.

Through one man, the first Adam, did death enter the world of old, and through the one Son of God hath the resurrection been revealed.

Theotokion

Thou gavest birth without having known a man, O Virgin, and thou remainest a virgin eternally, revealing the images of the true divinity of thy Son and God.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Human nature, enslaved to sin, hath through thee obtained its freedom, O pure Mistress; for thy Son is slaughtered like a lamb for all.

We all cry out to thee, the true Mother of God; Deliver thy servants, who move God to wrath, for thou alone hast boldness before thy Son.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

While yet in thy mother's womb, as a prophet thou didst recognize the Word of God, and, deified by light unapproachable, thou didst utter theology in that dark chamber, employing her tongue.

As the voice of one crying unceasingly, O Baptist, cease thou never to entreat the Deliverer of the world, that He loose the spiritual barrenness of those who hymn thy nativity.

Theotokion

Thy womb, O pure Theotokos, was shown to be the dwelling-place of the unapproachable Godhead, and thereon the heavenly ranks cannot gaze without fear.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Today John is born: the citizen of the desert, the preacher of repentance, the true witness of grace, the Forerunner of the Word, the star which shineth before the Light.

Today, the axe which hath been forged bodeth hewing for barren souls, planteth the fruits of the virtues, and cometh forth steadily in thy nativity, O Forerunner.

Jordan hath rejoiced most gloriously and leapeth up, learning that John is born of the barren one's womb; and the sea danceth with leaping waters.

Glory... Coming forth, the candlestand of the Light preached the coming of the Savior, the Lamb of God, Who hath shone forth light upon the earth, offered spiritually for all nature.

Both... O most immaculate Theotokos, who gavest birth to the Abyss of mercy: Drowning the abyss of my passions in the depths of thy compassions, grant me a torrent of tears from the depths of my soul.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

As we **celebrate**/ this sacred and solemn feast of the **Mother** of God,/ **let** us come, **clapping** our hands,/ O people **of** the Lord,/ and give **glory** to God// Who was **born** of her.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Saviour,/ seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!/ The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee!// And the world, O my Saviour praises Thee forever.

R. Ikos

Thou art the light of those in darkness; Thou art the resurrection of all and the life of men, and hast raised up all with Thyself, O Saviour, abolishing the dominion of death and breaking down the gates of hades, O Word. And the dead, beholding the wonder, marveled, and all creation rejoiceth in Thy resurrection, O Thou Who lovest mankind. Wherefore, we all glorify and hymn Thy condescension; and the world, O my Saviour, ever hymneth Thee.

Canticle Seven

Irmos: The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God,/ raised up a lofty flame;/ but Christ, Who is blessed and all-glorious,// spread a spiritual dew upon the pious youths.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

In Thy loving-kindness, O Master, Thou couldst not bear to see man tormented by death; and, becoming man, Thou didst come and save him by Thy blood. Blessed and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Seeing Thee arrayed in the vesture of vengeance, O Christ, the gatekeepers of hades were affrighted; for Thou didst come to slay Thy servant, the mindless tyrant. Blessed and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Theotokion

We understand thee to be holier than the Holy of holies, for thou alone gavest birth to the immutable God, O blameless Virgin, unwedded Mother; for thou hast poured forth incorruption upon all the faithful through thy divine birthgiving.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

At night, Jacob beheld as in a vision the incarnate God, Who through thee hath appeared in splendor to those who chant: Most divine and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Manifesting within thee beforehand the signs of the ineffable descent whereby He united Himself unto men of His own will, O pure one, the most divine and all-glorious God of our fathers wrestled with Jacob.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Before, all of human nature was in darkness, O Forerunner; but thou wast shown to be the dawn, crying out: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Thy nativity through the barren woman hath healed all afflicted nature, O Forerunner, teaching it to chant: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Thou wast born of a barren woman, O Forerunner, for, since the law is barren, grace hath truly come, chanting unto Christ: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Theotokion

O blessed Virgin, pray for us who beseech thee; for on thee do we set our hope, and to thee do we cry out: O Mistress, disdain not thy servants.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Falling mute for a time, Zechariah explained his silence by writing; and, provided again with speech through thy nativity, O Forerunner, he most gloriously announceth the grace of the Spirit.

The most honored Elizabeth, that barren and childless woman, is like unto the Church: that which before was enshrouded with the reek of burnt offerings now boasteth in beauty and birthgiving.

Glory... We all hymn the glorious John who issued forth from the barren woman, the Forerunner and preacher of repentance, who hastened before the Sun, Christ our God, like a star.

Both... O Virgin Theotokos, cease thou never to pray in behalf of all unto Him Who, without seed, made His abode within thy womb, Who, in His ineffable and utter humility, was born and abased Himself for our sake.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **H**oly Children bravely trampled upon the **th**reatening fire, / preferring not to worship created things rather than the **C**reator, / and they

sang in joy:/ 'Blessed art Thou and **praised** above all,// O Lord God of our fathers.'

Canticle Eight

Irmos: Once, in Babylon,/ the fiery furnace divided its activity at the command of God,/ consuming the Chaldeans, but bedewing the faithful, who chant:// Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Beholding the vesture of Thy flesh stained with Thy blood, O Christ, the ranks of the angels were filled with awe and trembling at Thy great longsuffering, cried aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

By Thine arising, O Compassionate One, Thou hast clothed my mortality in immortality; wherefore, in gladness Thy chosen people thankfully hymn Thee, O Christ, crying out to Thee: Death is swallowed up in victory!

Theotokion

Without seed thou didst conceive Him Who is inseparable from the Father, and He dwelt in thy womb as God and man; and thou didst ineffably give birth unto Him O all-pure Theotokos. Wherefore, we acknowledge thee as the salvation of us all.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Through thee the One Who is incomparable in goodness and power was seen on earth and dwelt with men. And, chanting unto Him, all of us, the faithful, cry: Let all existing creation hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Truly proclaiming thee to be the pure Theotokos, we glorify thee; for thou gavest birth to the One of the Trinity Who became incarnate, to Whom, with the Father and the Spirit, we all chant: Let all creation hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all the ages!

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Moses the lawgiver was a servant, but Jesus is the God of the new covenant; and now the Forerunner hymneth both, as mediator between them, saying: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

A turtle-dove hath issued forth from the womb of the barren one! Like a divinely planted grove hath she offered the Forerunner of Christ unto the Church, and chanteth: All ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

O God-bearing people, holy nation, liken yourselves unto the turtle-dove of Christ and, abiding in chastity, chant ye with mellifluous voices: All ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

Triadicon

Illumined with the threefold Light, let us worship the one uncreated Godhead, crying out in Orthodox manner with ceaseless voices: All ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord!

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Before thy birth, before thine own swaddling clothes, O Forerunner, thou didst recognize Christ, the Bestower of life, Whom thou didst worship, and thou didst indicate Him by leaping, naming Him thy Lord, borrowing thy mother's tongue to sing unto Christ our God.

Today the Jordan, likening itself to John, hath leapt up most gloriously in its fluid torrents, hearkening to him whose life is like unto that of the angels, who was born of a barren and elderly woman, who maketh straight the ways and paths of the Lord and hath baptized the world.

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

Today Zechariah noted on a slate the name of the prophet and Forerunner which was designated by God; and in his silence he declared: "Let him be called John who is born to me in mine old age!" This marvelous appellation befitteth one who was begotten according to God's promise.

Both... Thy people, O Virgin, have thee as a mighty consolation, a hope unashamed, an unassailable rampart and divine intercession, and, saved, they glorify and cry out to thee earnestly: Bless the Lord unceasingly, all ye works of the Lord!

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Offspring** of the Theotokos/ saved the holy Children in the **furnace**./ **He** Who was then prefigured has since been **born** on earth,/ and He gathers together all the creation to sing:/ O all ye **works** of the Lord,// bless ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: God the Lord, the Son of the unoriginate Father,/ hath revealed Himself to us incarnate of the Virgin,/ to enlighten those in darkness and to gather the dispersed.// Wherefore, we magnify the all-hymned Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The thrice-rich tree of Thine all-pure Cross was planted on Golgotha as in paradise, O Saviour; and watered with the blood and divine water of Thy side, as by a divine spring, O Christ, it hath budded forth life for us.

Crucified, O Omnipotent One, Thou didst cast down the mighty; and raising up human nature, which lay below in the stronghold of hades, Thou

didst set it upon the throne of the Father. And worshipping Thee Who wilt come therewith, we magnify Thee.

Triadicon

Chanting, O ye faithful, in Orthodox manner let us glorify the threefold Unity, the consubstantial Trinity, the indivisible, all-divine essence, the thrice-radiant, the only incorrupt and never-waning Effulgence, which hath shone forth light upon us.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

In thy womb, O pure one, the Word of God was given to corrupt nature as a staff of strength; and He raised it up which had fallen headlong into hades. Wherefore, O most pure one, we magnify thee as the Theotokos.

O Master, mercifully accept as advocate for us Thy Mother, Whom Thou didst choose. All things will be filled with Thy goodness, that we may all magnify Thee as our Benefactor.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Lo! the voice of the Forerunner falleth upon barren and empty hearts, crying: "Prepare ye now the way of Christ," for He shall come in glory, and, submitting ourselves, we magnify Him!

As of old, O Forerunner, thou didst through the Holy Spirit manifestly preach the Son, Who is the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sins of the world, ask thou remission of offenses for thy flock.

Triadicon

Chanting in Orthodox manner, O ye faithful, let us glorify the threefold Unity, the consubstantial Trinity, Who illumineth us divinely and filleth our souls with the splendors of the never-waning light.

Theotokion

O thou who hast dominion over all creatures, grant the trophy of victory to thy people and set the feet of Orthodox hierarchs upon all heresies and schisms, that we may magnify thee as the Theotokos.

Holy Great John, Forerunner of the Lord, pray to God for us!

Behold, in thee, O priest, hath God wrought a great and all-glorious sign; for thou begettest a son, the Forerunner, in thine old age and the mortality of thy members.

Be glad and rejoice now in God, O Zechariah! For, lo! Elizabeth nourisheth the son of her old age at her breast and in the mortality of her members giveth birth to the Forerunner.

Glory... Glory to Him Who hath given fruit to the barren woman in her old age and hath bestowed upon the aged prophet a son, the divine Forerunner, who prepareth for Him a perfect people.

Both... He Who was begotten in the bosom of the Father without passion and corruption, having made His abode within thee, in His loving-kindness hath led us to the Father and the divine Spirit.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Let every mortal **born** on earth,/ radiant with light, in spirit **leap** for joy;/ and **let** the hosts of the angelic powers **celebrate**/ and honour the holy feast of the **Mother** of God,/ and **let** them cry:// Hail! Pure and blessed ever-Virgin, who gavest **birth** to God.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Three (Mark 16:12-20)

Let no man not believe that Christ has risen. For He appeared to Mary and afterwards was seen by those walking in the country, and He again appeared as they lay, to the eleven who knew the mysteries, and having sent them out to baptize, He was received up into heaven from whence He came down confirming their preaching with a multitude of signs.

Glory... Exapostilarion of John the Baptist

Today the joyous nativity of the forerunner looseth the burden of his father's muteness and the barrenness of his mother, and proclaimeth true joy and gladness. Wherefore, all creation doth celebrate it with splendor.

Both... Theotokion

O Sun, having risen upon the tomb today as a Bridegroom from the bridal chamber, having harrowed hell and dashed death down, by the intercession of Her that bore Thee, Thou hast sent us light--light that has enlightened our hearts and our souls, light that has directed us all to walk in the paths of Thy commandments and the ways of peace.

C. Lauds: Tone 2 Stichera

Let every **breath** praise the Lord/
Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
Praise Him in the highest/
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**;/
Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts.//
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.
Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.
He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints. Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds. The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples, To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to all His saints.

1. All that hath breath, all the creation praises **Thee**, O Lord./ For Thou alone **lovest** men,/ **and** hast put down de-ath **through** Thy Cross,// so as to show mankind Thy **Resurrection**.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His power.

2. Let the Jews say how the soldiers lost the King over **Whom** they watched./ Why did the stone fail to guard the **rock** of life?/ Let them give up Him who was buried or worship Him risen and **declare** with us:// Glory to Thy manifold mercies, Glory unto Thee, our **Saviour**.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

3. O ye people, **rejoice** and make glad./ An angel sat upon the stone of the tomb and **announced** to us:/ **Christ**, Saviour of the world is risen **from** the dead/ and has filled the universe with **fragrance**// Rejoice and make glad, O ye **people**.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

4. Before Thy **conception**, O Lord,/ an angel brought the joyful salutation to the Virgin, **full** of grace,/ **while** at Thy Resurrection an angel rolled back the stone of Thy **glorious** tomb./ The one, in place of sorrow disclosed **tokens** of joy,/ the other instead of death, proclaimed the Master, Giver of **life** to us./ Therefore we cry: Glory to **Thee**, O Lord,// Benefactor of **all** mankind.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with **strings** and flute.

Stichera for St. John the Baptist (Tone 8)

5. O all-glorious **wonder!**/ From a mother advanced in age doth John, the proclaimer of **God** the Word/ hasten to issue **forth** today,/ and by his nativity he most clearly showeth the bound **tongue** to speak./ O Thine ineffable dispensation, O **Master**,/ whereby, O Christ, save **Thou** our souls,// in that Thou alone art **merciful**.

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

6. O all-glorious **wonder!**/ The prophet who is the greatest among those born of **women**/ annulleth the sentence of his mother's **barrenness**,/ coming with the spirit and power of **Elijah**/ to make straight the **way** of the Lord./ O Thine ineffable loving-kindness, O **Master**,/ whereby, O Christ, save **Thou** our souls,// in that Thou alone art **merciful**.

V. Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and wrought deliverance for His people.

7. O all-glorious **wonder!**/ He Who preached to men the condescension of Christ **with** his voice/ doth indicate Him Who transcendeth all,/ and with power divine looseth the barrenness of her who **gave** him birth/ and the tongue of **Zechariah**./ O Thy great wonders, O **Master!**// Thereby, O Christ, do Thou save those who honour Thy great **Forerunner**.

V. And thou, O child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High.

(Tone 6)

8. The Forerunner, the **star** of stars,/ John who longeth for God, is born on earth today from a **barren** womb,/ and he revealeth the **radiance** of Christ,/ the Dayspring **from** on high,// for the straight passage of the **faithful**.

Glory... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 3)

When Mary Magdalene announced the good **tidings**/ **of** the Saviour's Resurrection from the dead and His **appearing**,/ the **disciples**, not believing, were reproached for their **hardness** of heart./ **But** they were sent to preach, armed with signs and **wonders**./ And **Thou**, O Lord, hast been lifted up to the Father, the **Arch-Light**,/ **while** they preached the Word in all places, made secure by **miracles**./ Therefore **we**, enlightened by them, glorify Thy **Resurrection** from the dead,// O Lord Who **lovest** mankind.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin **Theotokos**,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captive**,/ **Adam** recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

The Great Doxology
Dismissal Tropar:

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of hades, Thou hast destroyed the sentence of death, O Lord, delivering all from the snares of the enemy. Manifesting Thyself to Thine apostles, Thou didst send them forth to preach; and through them hast granted Thy peace to the world, O Thou Who alone art plenteous in mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

R. Hours
Tropar: Resurrection & St. John
Kontak: St. John/Resurrection alternating

At Liturgy

Order of Troparia & Kontakia as per Vigil Service

Prokimenon for Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation.

V. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me, but He hath not given me over unto death.

Prokimenon for St. John (Tone 7)

The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord.

Epistle(s): Rom 5:1-10 & Rom 13:11-14:4

Alleluia for Tone 2

V. The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee.

V. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

Alleluia for St. John (Tone 1)

Gospel(s): Matt 6:22-33 & Luke 1:5-25, 57-68, 76, 80

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & In everlasting remembrance