

"Lord I Call..." Tone 3

Reader: In the Third Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

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.

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 u-pon You. Hear me, O Lord! Let my prayer a-rise

in Your sight as in - cense, and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

Reader: (Reads text from service book)

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

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,  
death's dominion has been shattered;  
the devil's delusion destroyed.  
The race of men, being saved by faith, //  
always offers You a song.

By Your Cross, O Christ our Sa - viour, death's dominion has been shat - tered;  
the devil's de - lu - sion de - stroyed! The race of men being saved by faith,  
al - ways of - fers You a song!

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

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.  
Paradise has been opened again. //  
All creation, praising You, always offers You a song.

All has been enlightened by Your Resur - rec - tion, O Lord! Paradise has been  
o - pened a - gain. All creation, praising You, always of - fers You a song!

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, 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.

I glorify the power of the Fa - ther and the Son! I praise the authority of  
 the Holy Spi - rit! The undivided, uncreated God - head,  
 the consubstantial Trinity which reigns for - e - ver!

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

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,  
 and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection,//  
 for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

We bow down in worship before Your Precious Cross, O Christ,  
 and we glorify and praise Your Resur - rec - - tion

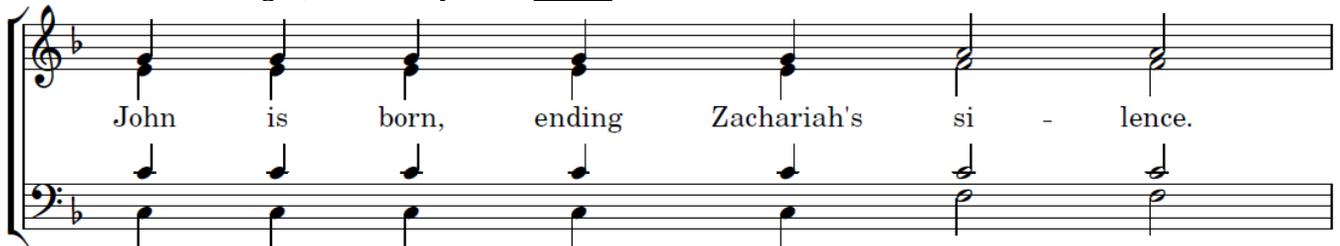


for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

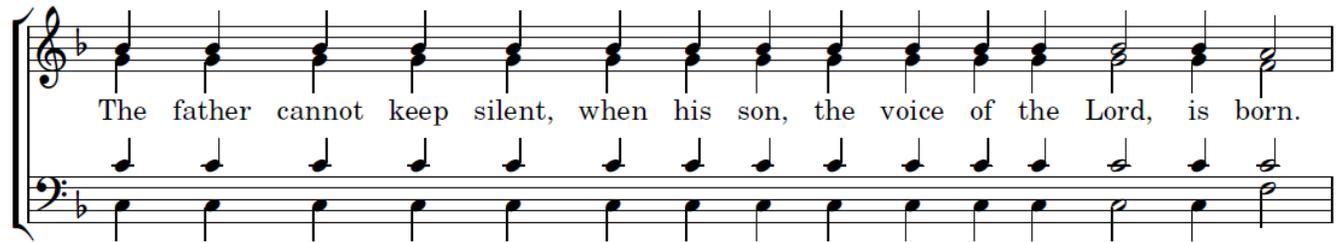
v. (6) In the Fourth Tone, If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

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

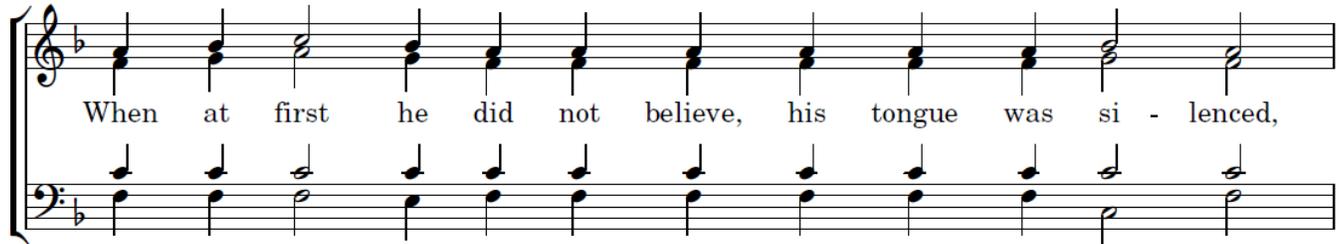
John is born, ending Zachariah's silence.  
 The father cannot keep silent, when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born.  
 When at first he did not believe, his tongue was silenced,  
 but now John has been born to free his father:  
 the one who heard the good news,  
 and from whom was born the voice of the Word, //  
 the Forerunner of Light, who always intercedes for our souls.



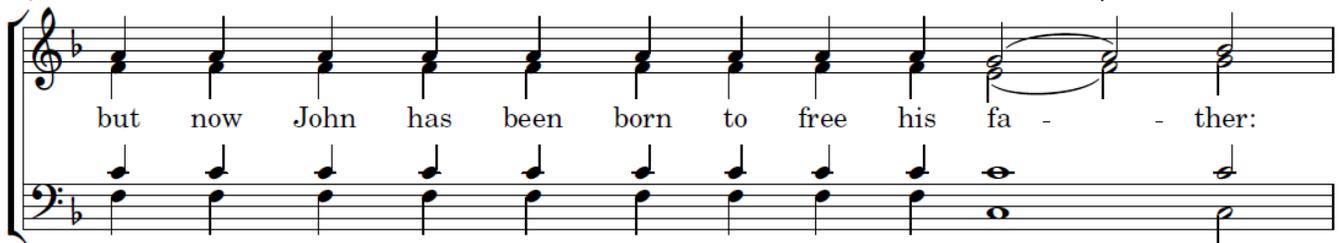
John is born, ending Zachariah's si - lence.



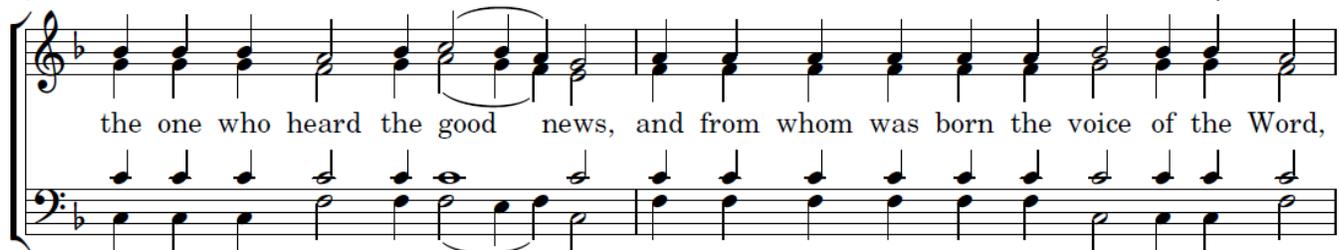
The father cannot keep silent, when his son, the voice of the Lord, is born.



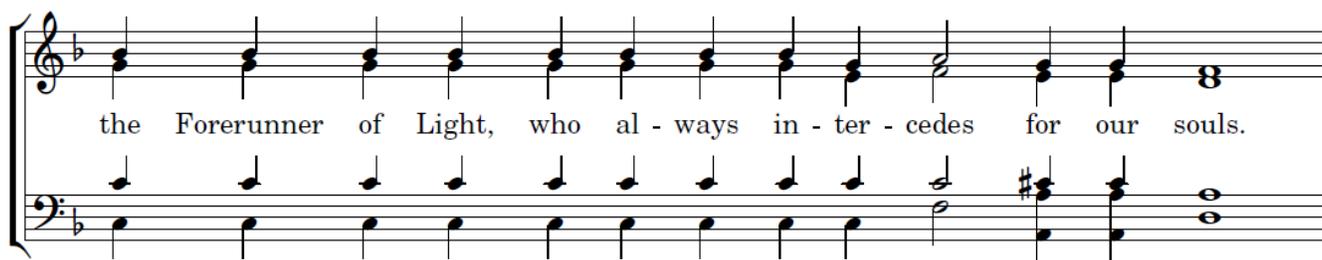
When at first he did not believe, his tongue was si - lenced,



but now John has been born to free his fa - - ther:



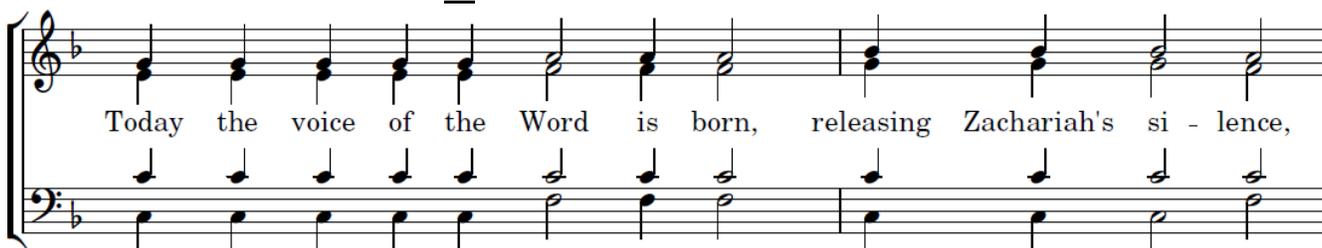
the one who heard the good news, and from whom was born the voice of the Word,



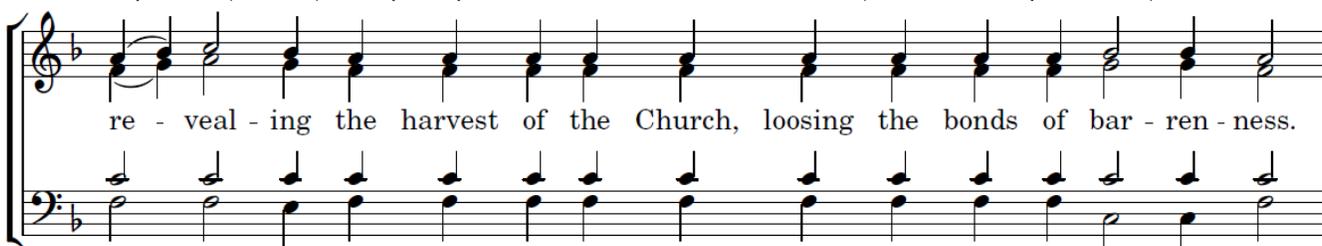
the Forerunner of Light, who al - ways in - ter - cedes for our souls.

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

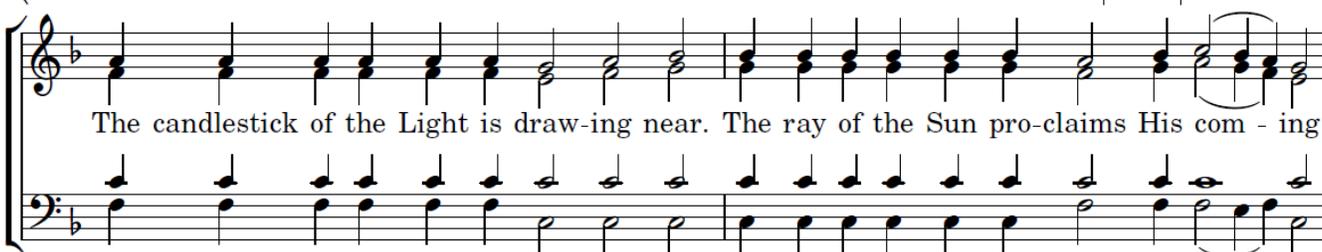
Today the voice of the Word is born,  
 releasing Zachariah's silence,  
 revealing the harvest of the Church, loosing the bonds of barrenness.  
 The candlestick of the Light is drawing near.  
 The ray of the Sun proclaims His coming//  
 for the edification of all and the salvation of our souls.



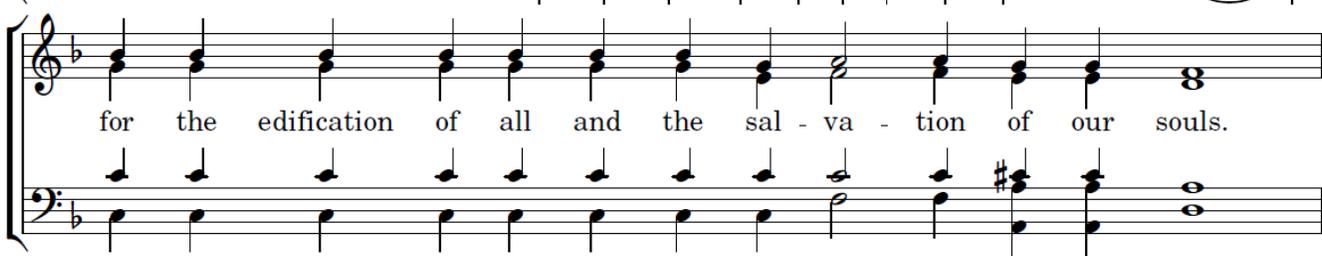
Today the voice of the Word is born, releasing Zachariah's si - lence,



re - veal - ing the harvest of the Church, loosing the bonds of bar - ren - ness.



The candlestick of the Light is draw - ing near. The ray of the Sun pro - claims His com - ing



for the edification of all and the sal - va - tion 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 You, Who have worked miracles for our salvation!

The messenger of God's Word comes forth from the womb:  
the greatest among those born of wom - en; the most high of the Pro - phets.  
Wonderful events precede the divine mys - ter - y: a seedless con - cep - tion; a mar - velous birth!  
Glory to You, Who have worked miracles for our sal - va - tion!

*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.

Today the great Forerunner comes from the barren womb of E - liz - a - beth;  
the great Prophet of Prophets, whom none surpass in great - ness.

The ra - di - ant can - dle - stick of the Light; the voice of the Word,  
the friend of the Bridegroom, preparing the Lord's chosen peo - ple  
by purifying them with water before the com - ing of the Spir - it.  
He is Zachariah's off - - spring,  
the child of the wilderness, the preacher of repentance, and the cleanser of sins.  
He announced the Resurrection e-ven to those in hell, and he al-ways 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.

Today the Prophet and Forerunner ap - pears from the womb:  
 John, the Baptizer of our Lord Je - sus Christ.  
 When he saw the Queen come to the hand - maid,  
 bearing in her womb the time-less 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.”

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!”

Most glorious won - der! Zachariah asked the An - gel of the Word:  
 How can E - liz - a - beth conceive and bear a son?

I am an old man; my wife is ad - vanced in years.

For his unbelief, he was con - demned to si - lence,

but today he beholds the birth and re - sumes his speech,

entering into joy and cry - ing out: Blessed be the Lord God of Is - ra - el,

for He has visited and redeemed His peo - ple, granting to the world great mer - cy!

*In the Sixth Tone, 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 nativity of the Forerunner//  
 who will proclaim the world's deliverance with great boldness!

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

heralds the coming of the Word of God; today Zachariah's si - lence is loosed,  
 for the father cannot remain silent at the nativity of the Fore - run - ner  
 who will proclaim the world's deliverance with great bold - ness!

*In the Third Tone, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 3**

*(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

How can we not wonder  
 at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?  
 For without receiving the touch of man,  
 you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.  
 The Son born of the Father before eternity  
 was born of you 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 to save the souls, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,  
 of those who confess you in the Orthodox manner //  
 to be the Theotokos.

How can we not won - der at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mo - ther?  
 For, without receiving the touch of man, you gave birth to a Son in the flesh,

O Immaculate Vir - gin! The Son born of the Father before e - ter - ni - ty

was born of you at the fullness of time, O honoured La - dy!

He underwent no mingling, no change, no di - vi - sion;

but preserved the fullness of each na - ture. Entreat Him to save the souls,

O Lady and Virgin and Mo - ther, of those who confess you in the Orthodox

man - ner to be the The - o - to - kos.

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Choir: O Gladsome Light ... (p. 16)

Prokeimenon of the Day, Three Readings

---

## 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*)

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading from the First Book of Moses called Genesis. (*Genesis 17:15-17, 19; 18:11-14; 21:1-8*)

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

God said, "Yes, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading from the Judges of Israel. (*Judges 13:2-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21*)

**Priest:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines." Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, but he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a

son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death." Then Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born." And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe."

And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?" And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife.

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 40:1-5, 9; 41:17-18; 45:8; 48:20-21; 54:1*)

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Thus says the Lord: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not.

I the LORD will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth; say, "The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob!" They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and the water gushed out.

"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud. For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married."

*Then, the Augmented Litany (p. 18)*

## Aposticha

### Tone 3

(for the Resurrection)

The sun was darkened by your Passion, O Christ,  
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//  
Accept our evening song, O Lover of mankind!

The sun was darkened by Your Pas - sion, O Christ, but all creation was  
enlightened by the light of Your Resur - rec - tion! Accept our evening  
song, O Lov - ver of Man.

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

Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,  
enlightened the whole universe,  
recalling Your creation.  
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://  
"Almighty Lord, glory to You!"

Your life-bearing resur - rec - tion, O Lord, enlightened the whole u - ni - verse,  
recalling Your cre - a - tion. Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing:

O Almighty Lord, glo - ry to You!

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

You are the changeless God,  
 Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed.  
 Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.  
 It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.  
 By descending to Hades and rising on the third day, //  
 You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

You are the change - less God, Who, suffering in the flesh were changed!

Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross. It was filled with fear

while praising Your pa - tience! By descending to Hades and rising on the

third day, You have granted to the world life and great mer - cy.

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

You endured death, O Christ,  
 to deliver the race of man from death.  
 You rose from the dead on the third day,  
 raising with Yourself those who knew You as God//

and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

You endured death, O Christ, to deliver the race of man from death.

You rose from the dead on the third day, raising with Yourself those

who knew You as God and enlightening the world. glo - ry to You!

*In the Eighth Tone, 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.

Now they are his by nature.

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

"Pray for us, that our souls may be saved!"

To - day the voice of Isaiah the Pro - phet is ful - filled

in the birth of John, the greatest of Pro - phets.

He said: Behold, I will send my Angel before Your face, to pre-pare Your Way!

Now the war - ri - or of the heavenly King has come.

He truly will prepare the way for our God.

He is a man by nature, but an An - gel in man - ner of life.

He embraced pur - i - ty and chastity for-ev - er. Now they are his by na - ture.

Let us all the faithful greet him, cry - ing: Pray for us, that our souls may be saved!

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

**Tone 8**

*(Theotokion)*

*(Theotokion – Tone 8)*

O Unwedded Virgin,  
 who ineffably conceived God in the flesh.  
 O Mother of God most high,  
 accept the cries of your servants, O blameless one!  
 Grant cleansing of transgressions to all!//  
 Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

O un wedded Vir - gin, who ineffably conceived God in the flesh!

O Mo - ther of God most high! Accept the cries of your servants, O blame - less one!

Grant cleansing of trans-gres-sions to all! Receive our prayers and pray to save our souls!

*Then, St. Symeon's Prayer (p. 25)*

**(at Great Vespers)**

**Tone 3**

**Troparion**

*(Resurrection)*

*Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 3*

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.

Let the hea - vens re - joice! — 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 grant - ed to the world great\_ mer - cy!

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

**Tone 4**

**Troparion**

*(Nativity of St John the Baptist)*

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!

Soprano  
Alto

Prophet and forerunner of the com - ing of Christ,

Tenor  
Bass

although we cannot praise you wor - thi - ly, we honor you

in love at your Na - tiv - i - ty, for by it you ended your

father's silence and your mother's bar - ren - ness, pro - claim - ing

to the world the incarnation of the Son\_ of God!

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

**Tone 4 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

*Resurrection Dismissal Theotokion – Tone 4*

The mystery of all eternity,  
 unknown even by Angels,  
 through you, 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.

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

The mystery of all e - ter - ni - ty, un - known even by

an - gels, through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:

God incarnate by union without con - fu - sion. He voluntarily

accepted the Cross for us, by which He resurrected the first -

cre - a - ted man, saving our souls from death.

*Then, the dismissal (p. 26)*

(at the Divine Liturgy)

Tone 3

Troparion

(Resurrection)

Resurrectional Troparion – Tone 3

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.

Let the hea - vens re - jice! — 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 grant - ed to the world great — mer - cy!

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

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!

The musical score is written for Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass voices. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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!"

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

Prophet and forerunner of the com - ing of Christ,

although we cannot praise you wor - thi - ly, we honor you

in love at your Na - tiv - i - ty, for by it you ended your

father's silence and your mother's bar - ren - ness, pro - claim - ing

to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

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

**Tone 3**

**Kontakion**

*(Nativity of St John the Baptist)*

*Kontakion for the Nativity of the Forerunner – Tone 3*

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.

Soprano  
Alto

To-day the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ's

Tenor  
Bass

Fore-run - ner, who is the fulfillment of every pro - phe-cy;

for in the Jor - dan, when he laid his hand on

the One foretold by the pro - phets, he was revealed as Prophet,

Herald, and Fore-run - ner of God the Word.

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

**Tone 3**

**Kontakion**

*(Resurrection)*

*Resurrectional Kontakion – Tone 3*

On this day You rose 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 Your power.

On this day, You\_ rose from the tomb, O Mer - ci - ful One, leading us from the  
gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve re - joic - es;  
With the prophets and pa - tri - archs they un - ceas - ing - ly praise  
the di - vine ma - jes - ty of Your po - wer!

*(then, p. 83)*

*Prokeimenon, Tone 3*

*Priest:* Let us attend! † Peace be unto all!

*Reader:* And with your spirit!

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The Prokeimenon, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tone: Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

*Choir:* Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

**Tone 3**

Sing praises to our God, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es to our King, sing prais - es!

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

*Choir:* Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

**Tone 3**

Sing praises to our God, sing prais-es! Sing prais-es to our King, sing prais - es!

*Reader:* In the Seventh Tone, The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

*Choir:* The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

The right - eous one shall re-joyce in the Lord, and shall put - his - hope - in Him.

*Deacon:* Wisdom!

**Epistle – (93) Romans 6:18-23 and (112) Romans 13:11-14:4 (Forerunner)**

***Reader:* The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.**

*Deacon:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Brothers and sisters, having been released from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Indeed, as you used to offer your members as slaves of impurity and ever-increasing wickedness, now offer your members as slaves of righteousness for sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you obtain at that time by those things which now shame you? The end result of those things is death! But now, being made free from sin and having become enslaved to God, you have your fruit of sanctification, and the result of eternal life. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Brothers and sisters, salvation is now nearer to us than when we first believed! The night is far gone, and the day is near. Let us therefore throw off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk decently, as in the day; not in parties and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and lustful acts, and not in strife or jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think how to satisfy the flesh and its lusts.

Accept the one who is weak in faith, but not to enter into arguments over disputable matters. One has faith to eat all things while the weak eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything should not look down on the one who does not eat. The one who does not eat should not judge the one who eats because God has accepted him. Who are you who judge someone else's servant? He stands or falls to his own master! Yes, that one will be made able to stand, because God has the power to make someone stand.

*Priest:* † Peace be to you!

*Alleluia: Tone 3*

*Reader: **And to Your spirit.*** In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tone: Alleluia! In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Reader:* In the First Tone, Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people.

*Choir:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

---

**Gospel – (25) Matthew 8:5-13 and (2) Luke 1:5-25, 57-68, 76, 80 (*Forerunner*)**

---

*Priest:* The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. **Matthew**.

*Choir:* Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

*Priest:* When Jesus came into Capernaum, a centurion came to him, imploring him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying in the house paralyzed, grievously tormented." Jesus answered, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof! Only say the word and my servant shall be healed. For I am also a man under authority, having soldiers under my own authority. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and if I tell another, 'Come,' he comes. Or if I tell my servant, 'Do this,' he does it!"

When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed, "Amen, I tell you that I have never found so great a faith, not even in Israel! I tell you that many will come from the east and the west, and will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven. But the children of the Kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way. Let it be done for you as you have believed." And his servant was healed in that hour.

When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her. She got up and served him.

In the days of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zacharias who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. He had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. Yet, they had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and both were well advanced in years. Now it came to pass that while Zacharias was performing his priestly office before God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priest's office, that his lot was drawn to enter into the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole multitude of the people was praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. Zacharias was startled when he saw the angel and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, because your petition has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. Indeed, he will be great in the sight of the Lord! He will drink no wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. He will bring back many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zacharias said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years!"

The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel who stands near before God. I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."

The people were waiting for Zacharias and wondering as he delayed in the sanctuary. When he came out, he could not speak to them and they understood that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He continued to make signs to them and remained mute. When the days of his service were fulfilled, Zacharias returned to his house. After these days, his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she hid herself five months, saying: "The Lord has done this to me in the days when he looked at me, in order to take away my disgrace among men."

Now the time when Elizabeth should give birth was fulfilled, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy towards her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and they wanted to name him Zacharias after his father. But his mother answered, "It shall not be! Instead, he will be called John!"

They said to her, "But there is no one among your relatives who is called by this name!" They made signs to his father to see what he wanted to have his son called.

Zacharias asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John."

They were all very surprised. Suddenly, his mouth was opened and his tongue was freed. He began to speak, blessing God. Awe came upon all who lived around them, and people talked about these sayings throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All those who heard these things took them to heart and exclaimed, "What then will this child be?" And the hand of the Lord was with the child.

His father, Zacharias, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
for he has visited and worked redemption for his people;  
And you, child, you will be called a prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways,*

And the child grew up and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

*Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.*

---

**Sermon**

*(then p. 89)*

---

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! *(then, p. 132)*