

HYMN

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
 Jesu, Lord, to you we raise,
 manifested by the star
 to the sages from afar;
 Branch of royal David's stem,
 in thy birth at Bethlehem;

*Anthems be to thee addressed,
 God in flesh made manifest.*

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
 Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
 and at Cana, wedding guest,
 in thy Godhead manifest,
 manifest in power divine,
 changing water into wine;

Manifest in making whole
 palsied limbs and fainting soul;
 manifest in valiant fight,
 quelling all the devil's might;
 manifest in gracious will,
 ever bringing good from ill;

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord
 Mirrored in thy holy word;
 May we imitate thee now,
 And be pure, as pure as thou;
 That we like to thee may be
 At thy great Epiphany,
 And may praise thee, ever blest,
 God in man made manifest.

COLLECT

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

FIRST READING **Isaiah 40.1–11**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: '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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM**Psalm 85.7–13**

R **The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
 and our land will yield its increase.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him. **R**

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
 Mercy and truth have met together;
 righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
 Truth shall spring up from the earth,
 and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
 and our land will yield its increase.
 Righteousness shall go before him,
 and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. **R**

SECOND READING **Galatians 3.23–29**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.
 Before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ; There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL**Luke 1.57–66, 80**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to

his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN

O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmers of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

O let me see they footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of our salvation, as we praise you for your servant John the Baptist, accept all we bring to you this day, and free us to worship you without fear, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Sweet Sacrament divine, hid in thine earthly home,
Lo, round thy lowly shrine,
With suppliant hearts we come;
Jesu, to thee our voice we raise
In songs of love and heartfelt praise:
Sweet Sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace,
Dear home for every heart,
Where restless yearnings cease
And sorrows all depart;
There in thine ear all trustfully
We tell our tale of misery:
Sweet Sacrament of peace.

Sweet Sacrament of rest,
Ark from the ocean's roar,
Within thy shelter blest
Soon may we reach the shore;
Save us, for still the tempest raves,
Save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
Sweet Sacrament of rest.

Sweet Sacrament divine,
Earth's light and jubilee,
In thy far depths doth shine
The Godhead's majesty;
Sweet light, so shine on us, we pray
That earthly joys may fade away:
Sweet Sacrament divine.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.