



who announces the king - dom of hea - - - ven.

**Troparia**

“Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,” page 119, sung twice, then:

**Troparion of John the Baptist - Tone 4**

Proph-et and fore-run-ner of the com-ing of Christ, al-though we honor you with  
 love, we can-not give you wor-thy praise. Through your glo-ri-ous and ho-ly birth,  
 your moth-er was freed from barrenness and your fa-ther from the loss of speech,  
 and the incarnation of the Son of God is pro-claimed to the world.

*Blessing of Bread, page 119*

**Vesper Propers, June 24, 2012**  
**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John**

*Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006*

*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 3, p. 48), stichera 10-7.*

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
*(on 6)* But with you is found forgiveness; for this we revere you.

**Stichera of John the Baptist - Tone 4 samohlasen**

When John was born, the silence of Zechariah was bro - ken. For when the Voice  
 appeared, it was not proper that his father re - main si - lent. Just as disbelief  
 bound the fa - ther's tongue, so now the appearance of John frees him. Hav-ing  
 re - vealed himself, he preaches the good tid - ings to all. The Forerunner of Light  
 and the Voice of the Word is born. and he prays for the sal - va - tion  
 of our souls.

**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord, I count on his word.  
*(on 5)* My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchman for daybreak.

5

To - day the Voice of the Word frees his fa - ther's voice which was lost through  
 dis - be - lief, and he reveals the Church's bless - ed pos - te - ri - ty, by loos - ing  
 his mother's bond of bar - ren - ness. The Lamp pre - ced - ing the Light ap - pears;  
 the Star proclaims the coming of the Sun of Jus - tice who is the res - to - ra - tion  
 of all and the sal - va - tion of our souls.

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
 (on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

4

When the time ap - proached for the Word of God to be born of a vir - gin,  
 a messenger came forth from a bar - ren womb. He is the great - est born of  
 wo - man and the great - est of the proph - ets. Be - hold, the beginning of God's

He will be a soldier of the king - dom of hea - ven, run - ning be - fore the  
 path of our God. By na - ture, he was a man, yet in in the present life he  
 be - came an an - gel for he wel - comed moderation in com - plete pu - ri - ty.  
 He had a human nature but fled what was according to na - ture and strug - gled  
 be - yond the na - tu - ral. There - fore, let all the faithful imi - tate his vir - tues  
 and beg him to pray for our souls' sal - va - - - - - tion.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Theotokion**

E - liz - abeth said to the Vir - gin Ma - ry: How is it that the Mother of my  
 God has come to me? You bear the King, and I, a sol - dier. You bear  
 the Lawgiver, and I, a preach - er of the law. You bear the Word, and I, the voice

en - light - en those whom he cre - a - ted with his own hands ac - cord - ing  
 to his own im - - - age. There - fore, O La - dy whom we  
 al - ways praise in song, we be - seech you to in - ter - cede with Christ  
 for the sal - va - tion of our souls; for, as his moth - er,  
 you can approach him with the great - est of con - fi - dence.

*Litija Litany, page 116*

**Aposticha**

*Aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 4, page 65), concluding with:*

**Cantor:** (Tone 8) Glory...

**Doxastikon of John the Baptist - Tone 8 samohlasen**

To - day the voice of the proph - et I - sa - iah is ful - filled in the birth of the greatest  
 of the proph - ets, John. He had said: Behold, I will prepare the way of the Lord.

actions is beyond our un - der - stand - ing. You were be - got - ten e - ter - nal - ly,  
 and con - ceived, O Lord, with - out seed. You work wonders for our sal - va - tion.  
 Al - might - y Lord, glo - ry to you.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
 (on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

To - day the great Fore - run - ner ap - pears, born from the barren womb of E - li - za - beth.  
 He is a prophet greater than all proph - ets; there is no oth - er like him, nor has there  
 ev - er been. For the most won - derful Light followed the Lamp of the Fore - run - ner;  
 the Word fol - lowed the Voice, and the Bride - groom followed the bride - groom's friend.  
 He pre - pares a special peo - ple for the Lord cleans - ing them with wa - ter un - til the

com-ing of the Spir - it. He is the off-spring of Ze - cha - ri - ah  
 and the noble dweller in the des - ert, the preach-er of re - pent - ance,  
 and the pu - ri - fi - ca - tion of our sins. He announced the Good News of the  
 Resurrection from the dead to those in Ha - des, and he prays for  
 our souls.

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord all the nations; **Psalm 116**  
*(on 2)* acclaim him all you people.

②  
 O John, the Bap - ti - zer of Christ, you manifested yourself to be a fore-run - ner and  
 proph-et, from the time you were in the womb. When you saw the queen coming  
 to her ser - vant, you leaped for joy in the womb of your moth - er,

and you shall go be - fore him to pre - pare the way.  
 There - fore, O an - gel, proph - et, a - pos - tle and sol - dier,  
 fore - run - ner, bap - tiz er, preach - er of pen - ance, and guide,  
 as the voice of the light of the Word, pray un - ceas - ingly for us  
 who faith - ful - ly keep your mem - o - - ry.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Theotokion**

O most pure Vir - gin, you are the tem - ple, the gate, the  
 pal - ace, and the throne of the King. Christ, our re - deem - er  
 and Lord, ap - peared through you to those who slum - bered in dark - ness.  
 For he, as the Sun of Right - eous - ness, wished to

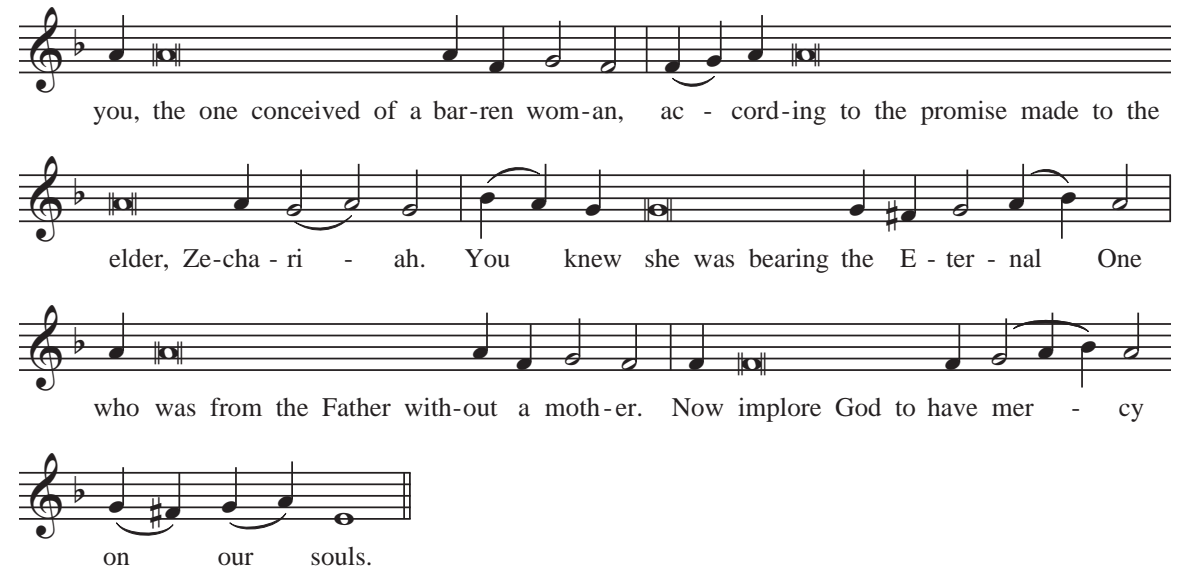
**Cantor:** (Tone 5) Glory...

**Doxastikon**

*Tone 5 Bolhar*

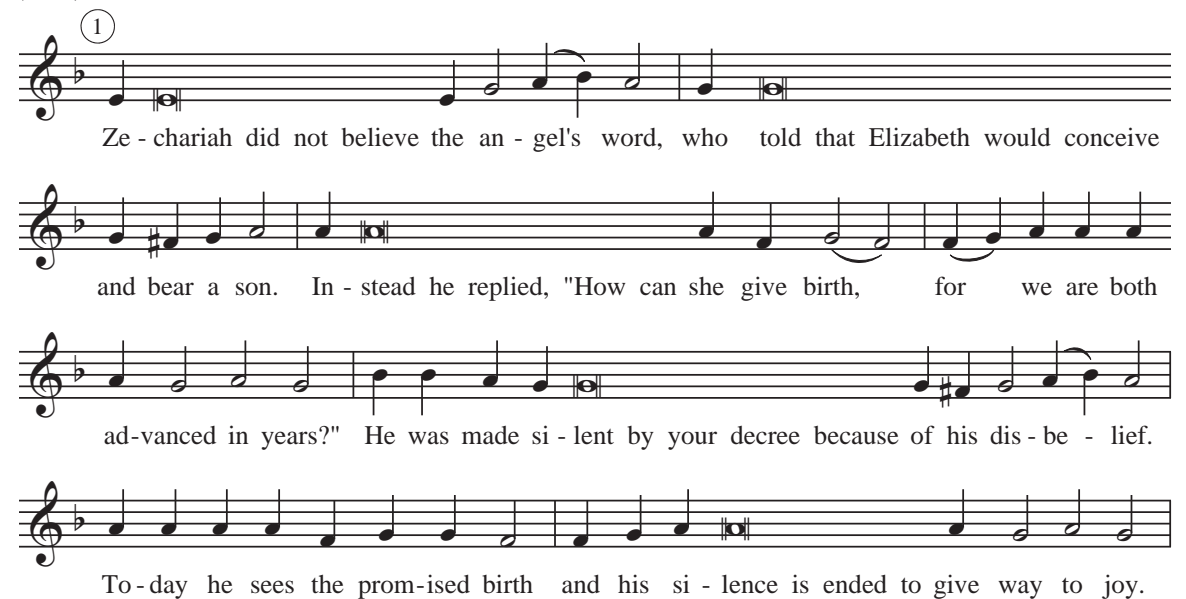


To-day E - liz - a - beth re - joi - ces as she gives birth to the end of the proph-ets and the be - gin - ning of the a - pos - tles, the earth - ly an - gel and the hea - ven - ly man, the voice of the Word, the sol - dier and fore - run - ner of Christ, who leaped for joy be - fore-hand be-cause of the prom - ised one and who preached be - fore the birth of the Sun of Jus - tice. In his old age, Zech - a - ri - ah is a-mazed, hav - ing cast a - side the mute-ness im-posed as a pun - ish-ment. As the fa - ther of the Voice, he pro - phe - sies most splen - did - ly: And you, O child, shall be called the proph - et of the Most High,



you, the one conceived of a bar-ren wom-an, ac - cord-ing to the promise made to the elder, Ze-cha - ri - ah. You knew she was bearing the E - ter - nal One who was from the Father with-out a moth-er. Now implore God to have mer - cy on our souls.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



<sup>1</sup>  
Ze - chariah did not believe the an - gel's word, who told that Elizabeth would conceive and bear a son. In - stead he replied, "How can she give birth, for we are both ad-vanced in years?" He was made si - lent by your decree because of his dis - be - lief. To-day he sees the prom-ised birth and his si - lence is ended to give way to joy.

O what a glo - ri - ous mar - vel! He shouts aloud, "Blessed is the Lord, the

God of Is - ra-el!" for he has turned to his people and brought them sal - va - tion.

He grants great mer - cy to the world.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Baptist - Tone 6**

To - day, like a shin-ing star, the Lamp prepares the way for the coming of the Word

of God. To-day Ze - cha - ri - ah speaks clear - ly, which ends the silence

imposed by the an - gel; for it was not right that the fa - ther of the Voice

should re - main in si - lence, once John was born from a bar - ren womb.

With great bold-ness he comes to an-nounce the great news of sal - va - tion for all

of the world.

**Cantor:** (Tone 3) Now and ever...

*Dogmatikon in the Tone of the week (Tone 3, page 53).*

**Readings:** Genesis 17: 15-17, 19; 18:11-14; 28: 1-2, 4-8 (EOT 318-319)  
 Judges 13: 2-8, 13-14, 17-18, 21  
 Isaiah 40: 1-3, 9; 41:17-18; 45: 8; 48-20-21; 54: 1

**Hymns of the Litija**

*Tone 1 Bolhar*

O moun-tains, give forth your sweet-ness; O hills, skip a - bout

like lambs; for to-day the Lord's fore-run-ner, de - sir - ing to a - bide with us,

is born of E - liz - a - beth. At his birth, he loosed his fa - ther's

si - lence. There-fore, let us cry out to him: O bap - tiz - er of Christ,

im - plore him to save our souls.