

Vesper propers, September 23, 2012  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

**The conception of the holy prophet, forerunner, and baptist John.** On this day are celebrated God's mercy, his wondrous deeds, and his wisdom. The story of the conception of Saint John is related in the first chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

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

*Lamplighting Psalms in the Tone of the Week (Tone 8, p. 102), 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 the conception of John the Baptist - Tone 4 samohlasen**

When the prophet Zech-a - ri - ah was officiating as priest with-in the tem-ple,  
of - fering up the petition of the people to the most lov - ing Lord, he be-held  
an angel, who cried out to him: Your sup - plication and en-treat - y have  
been heard. Be of good cheer, O elder, and do not dis - be - lieve! For you shall  
have a child, the Fore-run - ner of God, the great-est of all born of wo - men,  
who (in the power of E - li - jah) will go be - fore Christ.

**Cantor:** My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.  
All repeat "When the prophet Zechariah..."

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

4 3

Your appearance is strange to me, and your words are strange as well, Zech-a -  
ri - ah said. For I have come to ask for the salvation of the peo - ple,  
and not to obtain a child, as you main - tain. I find you contra-ry  
to my re - quests, and I suspect you are far from the truth.  
How can what you say e-ven come to pass? For E - liz - a-beth is bar - ren,  
and I myself am an old man, as you well know.

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

for us who cel - e - brate your mem - o - ry with faith.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Now and ever...

*Aposticha theotokion in the same tone (Tone 6, p. 90).*

*Troparion and Theotokion in the Tone of the Week (Tone 8, page 111).*

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

Why do you not believe my words, O Zech-a - ri - ah? Why do you say that I  
bring false ti - dings? I am an archan-gel of God; at his command, I  
speak to you during this ap - pear - ance. But be-cause you have doubted rath-er than  
be - lieved, you will be mute and una-ble to speak un - til you see  
the divine fulfill-ment of my words. When E - liz - abeth brings forth your son, the  
Fore - run - er, who will be the eminent spokesman for the Word,  
then in a loud voice you will bless the Lord, the God of Is - ra - el.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 1) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.  
*All repeat "Why do you not believe..."*

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

**Doxastikon of the conception of John the Baptist - Tone 6 samohlasen**

To - day the fruit of prayer has taken root in a bar-ren womb. Be-hold, the  
Fore-run-ner, John! Make mer-ry, O desert, and join chor-us with hu-man-i - ty:  
for lo! the preacher of re - pent - ance comes forth to be incarnate in his  
moth-er's womb. Come, O lov-ers of the feasts of the Church! Re - joi-cing  
in his glorious con-cep - tion this day, let us form a choir and cry out:  
O proph-et, greatest of those born of wo - men, nev-er cease to in-ter-cede  
for the faithful who honor your ho-ly con-cep - tion, that we might find the  
par-don of our sins and great mer - cy.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Now and ever...

*Dogmatikon in the Tone of the week (Tone 8, page 107).*

**Aposticha**

*Sunday aposticha in the Tone of the Week (Tone 8, p. 108), concluding with:*

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory...

**Aposticha doxastikon of the conception of John the Baptist - Tone 6 samohlasen**

You came forth from a barren womb as an an-gel, O Bap-tist; from your earliest  
childhood, you made the des-ert your a - bode, and have shown your-self  
as the proph-ets' seal; for him, whom they foresaw in man-y hid-den ways  
was worthily baptized by you in the Jor - dan's streams. From heav-en you  
heard the Fa-ther's voice, bear-ing wit - ness to his di-vine Son - ship,  
and you saw the Spirit, in the form of a dove, draw-ing down the Voice upon  
the One bap - tized. O great - est of the prophets, cease not to in - ter-cede