

## Vesper propers, September 23, 2007

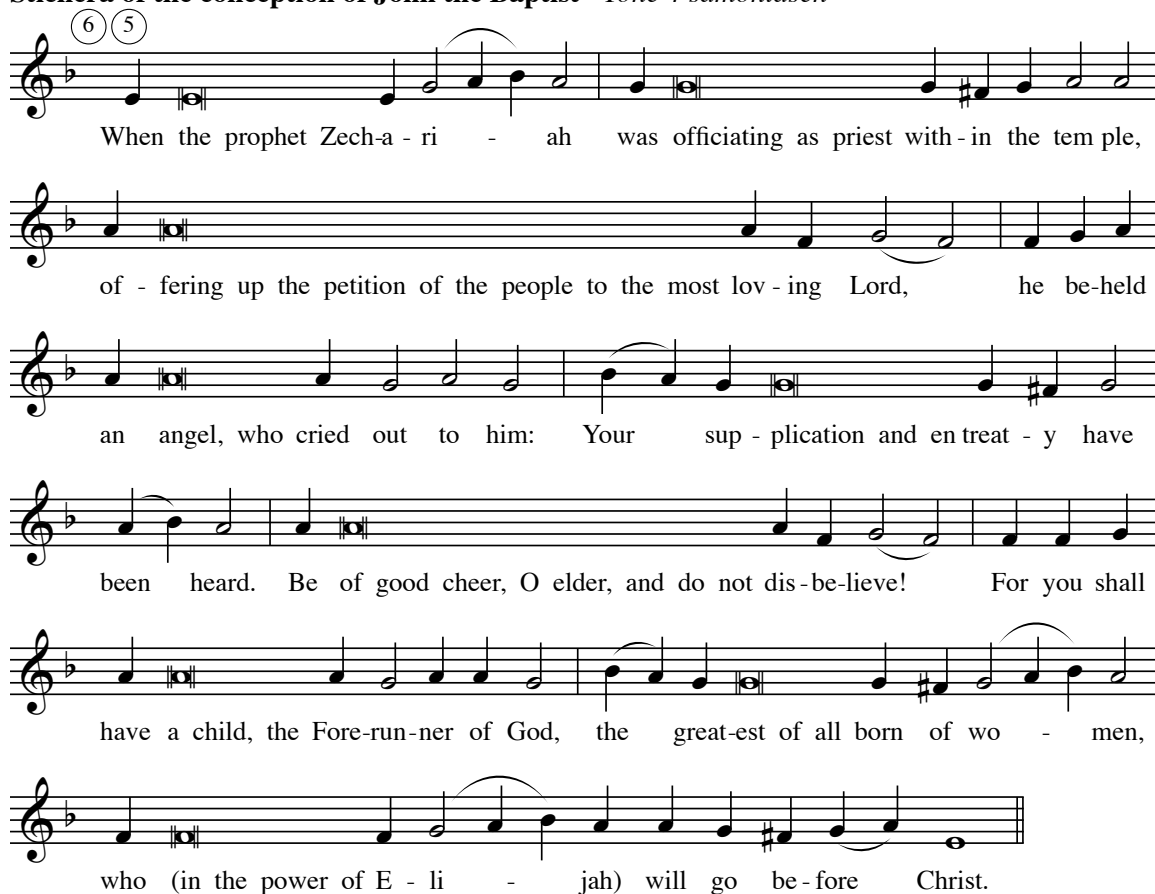
**The conception of the holy prophet, forerunner, and baptist John.** On this day are celebrated God's mercy, his wondrous deeds, and his wisdom. The story of the conception of Saint John is related in the first chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

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

*Tone of the Week: Tone 8 (begins on page 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.

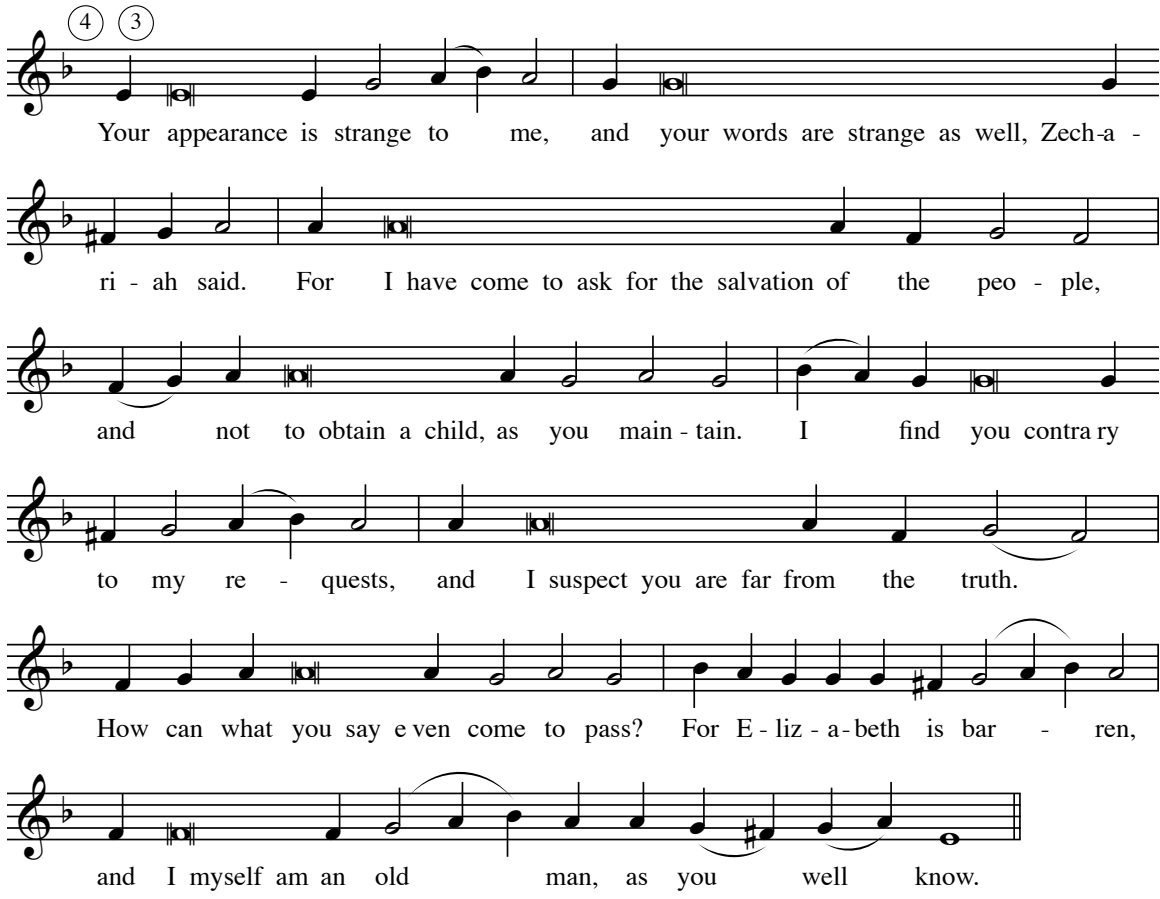
**Stichera of the conception of John the Baptist - Tone 4 samohlasen**



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)

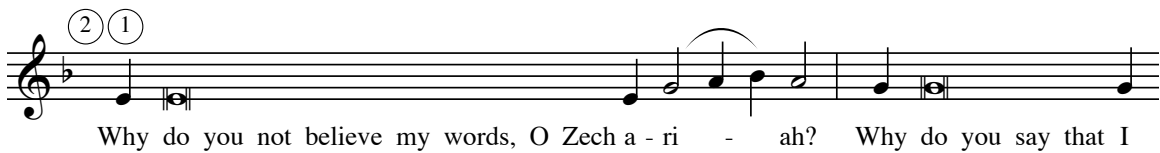


④ ③

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 even 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..."*

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



② ①

Why do you not believe my words, O Zech a - ri - ah? Why do you say that I

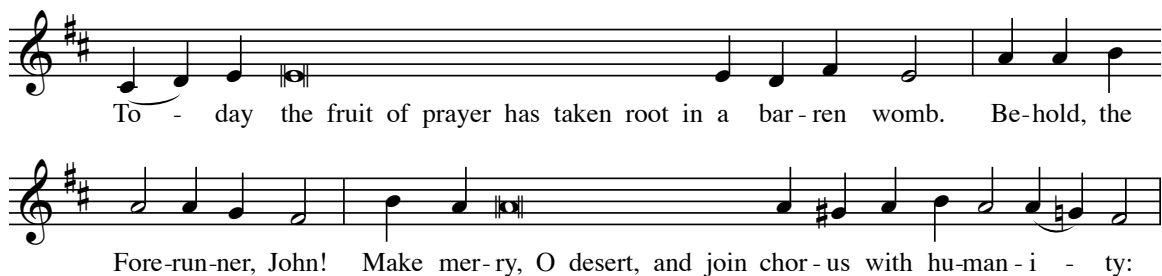


bring false ti-dings? I am an archangel of God; at his command, I  
speak to you during this ap-pear - ance. But be-cause you have doubted rath - er than  
be - lieved, you will be mute and una ble to speak un - til you see  
the divine fulfill ment of my words. When E - liz - abeth brings forth your 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.

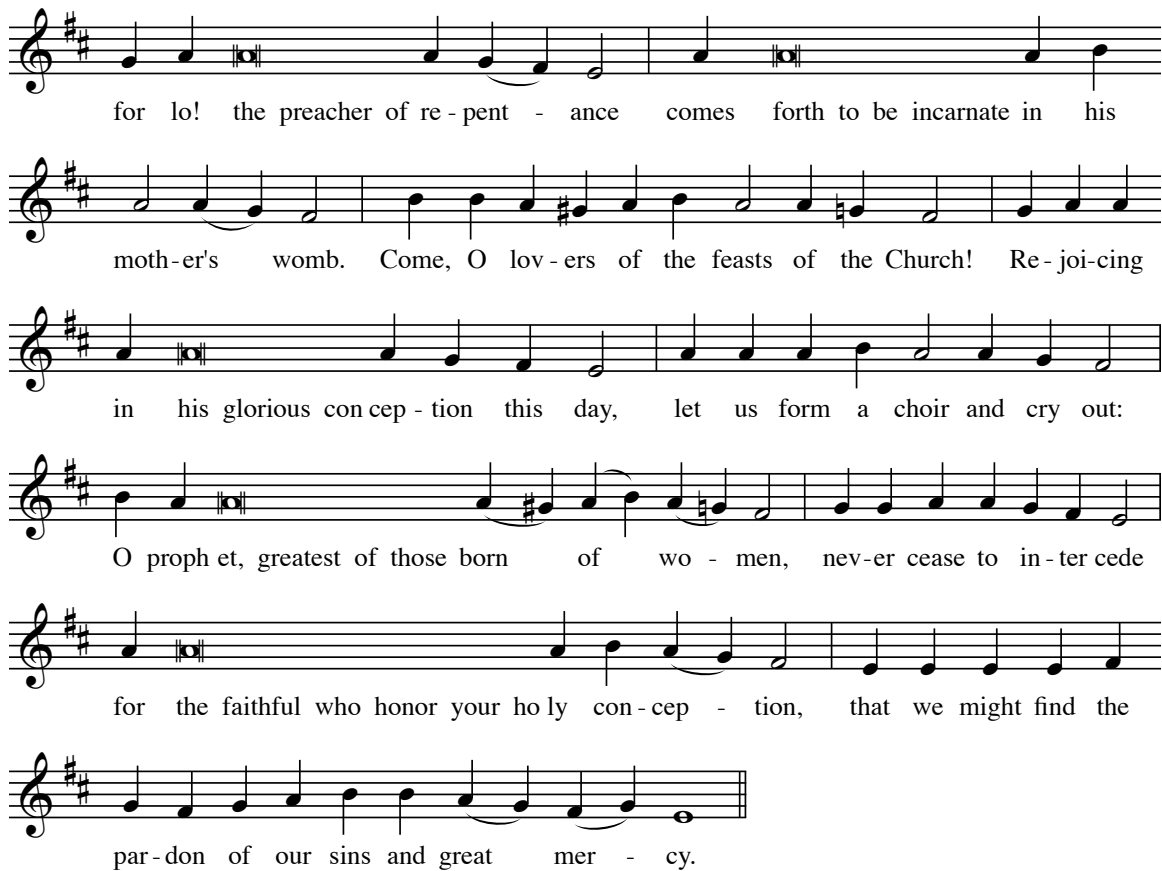
**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
*(on 1)* Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.  
*All repeat "Why do you not believe..."*

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

**Doxastikon of the feast - 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 concep - 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 concep - tion, that we might find the  
 par-don of our sins and great mer - cy.

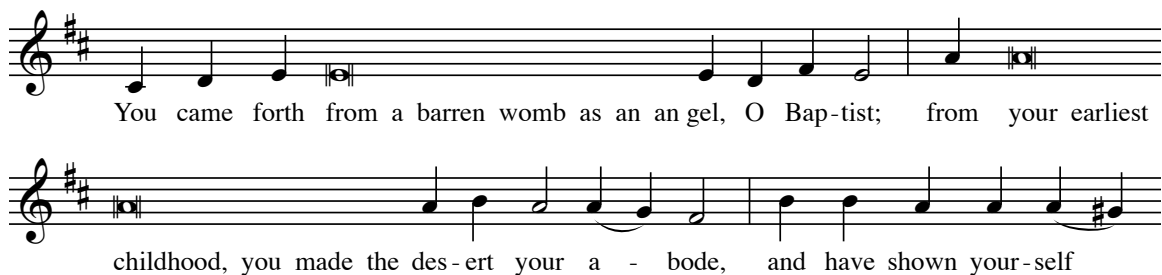
**Cantor:** (Tone 8) Now and ever...

*Dogmatikon, Tone 8, p, 107*

*Aposticha, Tone 8, p. 108*

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

**Doxastikon of the feast - Tone 6 samohlasen**



You came forth from a barren womb as an angel, 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  
 for us who cel - e - brate your mem - o - ry with faith.

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

*Aposticha Theotokion, Tone 6, page 90*

*Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 8, p. 111*

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Glory...

**Troparion of the feast - Tone 4**

Joy to you, O bar - ren one, un a - ble to give birth; be - hold, you

con - ceive today the one who is real - ly a torch of the Sun, who will  
en - light - en the whole world that suf fers from blind - ness. Re-joyce, O  
Zech - a - ri - ah, and cry out in all con - fi - dence: The one who  
will be born is a proph - et of the Most High!

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

*Festal Theotokion, Tone 4, page 68*