

Hymns for the Nativity of S John the Baptist (24th June) 2026

Introit Hymn – sung when the bell rings



1. Hail, harbinger of morn:
Thou that art this day born,
And heraldest the Word
with clarion voice!
Ye faithful ones, in him
Behold the dawning dim
Of the bright day, and let your hearts
rejoice.

2. John - by that chosen name
To call him, Gabriel came
By God's appointment
from his home on high:
What deeds that babe should do
To manhood when he grew,
God sent his angel forth to testify.

3. There is none greater, none,
Than Zechariah's son;
Than this no mightier prophet
hath been born:
Of prophets he may claim
More than a prophet's fame;
Sublimar deeds than theirs his brow
adorn.

4. 'Lo, to prepare Thy way,'
Did God the Father say,
'Before Thy face my messenger
I send,
Thy coming to forerun;
As on the orient sun
Doth the bright daystar morn by morn
attend.'

5. Praise therefore God most high;
Praise Him Who came to die
For us, His Son that liveth evermore;
And to the Spirit raise,
The Comforter, like praise,
While time endureth,
and when time is o'er.

Words: Latin the Ven Bede 673 – 735
Tr Charles Calverley 1831 -84
Music: Down Ampney
R Vaughan Williams 1872 - 1958

Offertory Hymn – sung after the Cherbuikon



The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and ties. The accompaniment consists of simple chords and moving lines in the bass clef.

1. Father, we thank Thee Who hast planted
Thy holy Name within our hearts.
Knowledge and Faith and life immortal
Jesus Thy Son to us imparts.

2. Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,
Didst give us food for all our days,
Giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
Thine is the power, be Thine the praise.

3. Watch o'er Thy Church, O Lord, in mercy,
Save her from evil, guard her still,
Perfect her in Thy love, unite her,
Cleansed and conformed unto Thy Will.

4. As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
Was in this broken bread made one,
So from all lands Thy Church be gathered
Into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

Words: From the Didache (C1)
Tr F Bland Tucker 1895 - 1984
Music: S Clement
Clement Schofield 1839 - 1904

Communion Hymn – sung once you are back from receiving Holy Communion



Musical notation for the first line of the hymn, consisting of a treble staff and a bass staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff.

1. Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands
That holy things have taken;
Let ears that how have heard thy songs
To clamour never waken.

2. Lord, may the tongues which 'Holy' sang
Keep free from all deceiving;
The eyes which saw Thy love be bright,
Thy bless-ed hope perceiving.

3. The feet that tread Thy holy courts
From light do Thou not banish;
The bodies by Thy Body fed
With Thy new Life replenish.



Musical notation for the second line of the hymn, continuing the treble and bass staves. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass line continues in the bass staff.



Musical notation for the third line of the hymn, concluding the treble and bass staves. The melody concludes in the treble staff, and the bass line concludes in the bass staff.

Words: Syrian C4
Tr CW Humphreys 1840 – 1921
& Percy Dearmer 1867 - 1936
Music: Ach Gott und Her
Melody in Neu-Leipziger Gesangbuch 1682
Adapted and harmonized by
JS Bach 1685 - 1750

Final Hymn – sung after the devotion at the shrine of the BVM

A - men.

1. The great forerunner of the morn,
The herald of the Word, is born,
And faithful hearts shall never fail
With thanks and praise his light to hail.

2. With heav'nly message Gabriel came,
That John should be that herald's name,
And with prophetic utt'rance told
His actions great and manifold.

3. His mighty deeds exalt his fame
To greater than a prophet's name;
Of woman born shall never be
A greater prophet than was he.

4. All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, Eternal Son, to Thee,
Whom with the Spirit we adore
For ever and for evermore.

Words: JM Neale
From the Ven Bede 673 - 735
Music: Winchester New
Adapted from a chorale in
Musicalisches Hand-Buch Hamburg 1690