



Saint Matthew's Church  
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street  
Newcastle

**Text of the Mass for the Nativity of S John the Baptist (24<sup>th</sup> June)  
2026**

*As the priest enters the church, the following is sung:*

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;  
Sublimier 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.'

*(continued over the page)*

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

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.  
[And with thy spirit.](#)

John the Baptist proclaimed, 'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.' Let us turn to the Lord in penitence and faith and humbly confess our sin.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ: Kyrie eleison.  
[Kyrie eleison.](#)

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples: Christe eleison.  
[Christe eleison.](#)

We often fail to walk the way of the Cross: Kyrie eleison.  
[Kyrie eleison](#)

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon *you*,  
pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,  
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,  
and keep *you* in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
[Amen.](#)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John: he came to bear witness to the Light to prepare an upright people for the Lord. It is good to give thanks to the Lord: to praise Your Name, O Most High. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

There was a man &c

*During the **Gloria in excelsis**, the Altar, the symbol of God's Presence, may be honoured with incense.*

Glory be to God on high.

And in earth peace, goodwill towards men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee,

we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,

we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King,

God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right

hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord;

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high,

+ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray:

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 rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the Truth's sake; in and through the same Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

In the days of Josiah, the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put forth his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In you, O Lord, do I seek refuge; ♦ let me never be put to shame.  
In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; ♦ incline your ear  
to me and save me.  
Be for me a stronghold to which I may ever resort; ♦ send out to  
save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

*(continued over the page)*

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, ♦ from the grasp of the evildoer and the oppressor.

For you are my hope, O Lord God, ♦ my confidence, even from my youth.

Upon you have I leaned from my birth when you drew me from my mother's womb; ♦ my praise shall be always of you.

My mouth shall tell of your righteousness and salvation all the day long, ♦ for I know no end of the telling.

O God, you have taught me since I was young, ♦ and to this day I tell of your wonderful works.

A Reading from the former Letter of Saint Peter.

Without having seen Jesus Christ you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls. The prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired about this salvation; they inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:*

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia! As for you, little child, you shall be called the prophet of God Most High: you shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare Hi way before Him. Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia!

*Christ's Presence in the words of the Gospel may be honoured with incense.*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechari'ah, of the division of Abi'jah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechari'ah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechari'ah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Eli'jah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*A homily may follow.*

We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
Maker of Heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds.  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten not made;  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by Whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from Heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost  
of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried,  
and the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into Heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.  
And He shall come again in glory  
to judge both the quick and the dead;  
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the Lord, the Giver of life,  
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshipped and glorified,  
Who spake by the prophets.  
And we believe  
one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church,  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.  
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
+ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Let us pray for the Church and the world that we may prepare the way for the coming of Christ and behold His Presence among us:

Lord God of Israel, You promised Zechariah a son filled with spirit and power of Elijah, who would prepare the way for Your Son; raise up in Your Church prophetic voices to speak Your Word without fear: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Lord God of Israel, when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leapt for joy; may all people come to know with joy the Presence of Your Son among us: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Lord God of Israel, at Your Son's Baptism, the heavens opened and the Spirit descended as a dove; hasten the day when Your peace may rest over all the earth: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Lord God of Israel, John turned his back on the traditions of his family; comfort all those who know the pain of broken homes: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Lord God of Israel, John was sent to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness: be with those who feel alone and marginalised in our world: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Lord God of Israel, John was cast into prison for the discomfit he caused to people of power: strengthen all those oppressed for the beliefs and the dictates of their conscience: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Lord God of Israel, John died in Your service; in Your tender compassion may the dawn from on high break on all who know the darkness of death and guide their feet into the Light of Your eternal peace: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

*(continued over the page)*

In union with our Lady, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Elizabeth, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints, we ask that Your love may shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and guide the world in the way of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord God of Israel has come to His people to set them free and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

*As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:*

The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree: he shall grow up like a cedar of Lebanon.

Here, while the Cherubim within the veil, adore the blest, life-giving Trinity, we in earth's worship echoing their part, hymn the thrice-holy in their company. So let all earthly cares be laid aside, that we may welcome Him Who draweth nigh, the King of Glory entering His courts, girt by the hidden armies of the sky. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour the place where Christ will become present. At the end:*

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.

*(continued over the page)*

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

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory and the victory  
and the majesty. All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:

[All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee.](#)

God of our salvation, accept all we offer You this day, and free us to  
worship You without fear, in holiness and righteousness of life; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

*The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:*

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is indeed right and good,

our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Among those born of women

you marked out John the Baptist with your special favour

as the one who prepared the way before your Son.

His birth brought great rejoicing;

even in the womb he leapt for joy, so near was our salvation.

Alone of all the prophets,

John hailed the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

He baptized Jesus, the author of baptism,

in waters made holy by the one baptized.

By shedding his blood

he gave his last and greatest witness to your Son.

And so with angels and archangels

and all the heavenly host

we proclaim your glory

and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

+ Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his Apostles  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

*The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.*

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*The priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.*

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

*(continued over the page)*

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,  
*Amen,*  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
*Amen,*  
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

Instructed by saving precepts and taught by divine example, we are bold  
to say:  
Our Father,  
*Who art in Heaven,*  
*hallowed by Thy Name;*  
*Thy Kingdom come,*  
*Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*  
*Give us this day our daily bread*  
*and forgive us our trespasses*  
*as we forgive those who trespass against us;*  
*and lead us not into temptation,*  
*but deliver us from evil.*  
*For Thine is the Kingdom,*  
*the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.  
*Though we are many, we are one body,*  
*because we all share in one bread.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

*The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:*

+ Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him, Who takes away the sin of the world; happy are they who are called to His Supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive You; but only say the Word and my soul will be healed.

From his mother's womb he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit: he will be great in the sight of the Lord and many will rejoice at his birth.

*Holy Communion follows.*

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.

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

*After Holy Communion:*

Through the tender compassion of our God: the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

Let us pray:

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 peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

*Notices may follow.*

Through the tender compassion of our God, may the dawn from on high break upon you and guide your feet into the way of peace; and the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

*Amen.*

The Mass is ended. Go in the Peace of Christ.

*Thanks be to God.*

O, higher than the Cherubim, more glorious than the Seraphim, lead their praises, alleluia! Thou, bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious magnify the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia,) alleluia!

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross (+) and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

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

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