

**W e l c o m e**  
**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Church Staff:

The Rev. Dr. David O. Guss, Fr., Ph.D.  
Ms. Josie Largacha, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Adam Cahill, Choir Director  
Mr. J. Sebastien Rogers, Organist

**June 24th**

**ALTAR GUILD:** Marina Wijesinha  
**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Julia Rego  
**FELLOWSHIP:** Raul & Miriam Calzadilla  
**COUNTERS:** Miriam Calzadilla/Pat Price  
**USHERS:** Raul & Miriam Calzadilla

**Serving Next Week, July 1st**

**ALTAR GUILD:** Maria Martin  
**ASSISTING MINISTER:** Maria Martin  
**FELLOWSHIP:** Josie Largacha  
**USHERS:** Jacob Perry/Tom Johnson

**Congregational Council 2018-2019**

**Church Council:**

Miguel Guerrero  
William Hill  
Laurie Hill  
Tom Johnson  
Bob Kramer  
Josie Largacha  
Maria Martin  
Timi Nichols

**Officers:**

**President:** Raul "Bubba" Calzadilla  
**Vice President:** Jacob Perry  
**Secretary:** Charlene Grall  
**Treasurer:** Julia Rego

**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



A Reconciling Works Congregation



**ORDER OF MASS**

*and*

*St. Mark's Messenger*

**John the Baptist**

**June 24, 2018**

**10:00 A.M.**

**3930 LEJEUNE ROAD  
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134  
305.444.0425**

**EMAIL: SAINTMAR@BELLSOUTH.NET**

**WEB: WWW.STMARKSLUTHERANCORALGABLES.COM**



# “ST. MARK’S MESSENGER”

## Welcome

**TO ALL OUR VISITORS, FRIENDS, AND MEMBERS:** Welcome to worship at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, a multicultural, all-inclusive ecumenical ministry to the community. You are encouraged to join us for refreshments following worship. Please sign our guest book located at the church’s front entrance. Restrooms are located on the other side of the east gate as you exit the sanctuary. If you are interested in becoming part of this loving church family, please speak to Pastor today. St. Mark’s is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and welcomes all believers to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please visit us [www.stmarkslutherancoralgables.org](http://www.stmarkslutherancoralgables.org). Thank you for being with us today!

**INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH:** Please consider inviting a family member, a friend, or a neighbor to church with you next Sunday. Share the Good News!

## MINISTRIES

### SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM

Thank you to all those individuals who have come forward to offer special music for worship during this summer season. If you think you might still be interested in providing music come Sunday this summer, please see Choir Director, Mr. Adam Cahill at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

### CARE NETWORK MINISTRY MEETING THIS TUESDAY – JUNE 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM

St. Mark’s Care Network is comprised of a group of individuals who sends cards, makes phone calls, and occasionally makes visits to the homes of members and friends of the congregation who may not have been able to attend church for a while and/or who need some good cheer. If you are interested in serving in this vital and important ministry, please attend our Care Network Ministry Team meeting this coming Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM.

### MUSIC LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING WILL BE NEXT TUESDAY, JULY 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 PM

Our next Music Leadership Team meeting will take place Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM. Members, please plan to be in attendance. Our focus will be to discuss our summer program.

### OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN TASK FORCE MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY JULY 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM

Come join our efforts in identifying new friends and neighbors in the community who are interested in finding a church home. Our next Membership Campaign Team will be meeting Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Consider becoming part of this new effort as we bring forward recommendations to our Church Council which will be holding their Annual Retreat on July 21st.

### PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO WELCOME FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Let us all make a special effort to always make our friends and neighbors welcome at St. Mark’s: 1) introduce them to the Pastor, 2) invite them to sign the guest book, and 3) bring them to fellowship hour to enjoy fellowship and meet new friends. Also, if you know of a friend or neighbor who would be interested in joining St. Mark’s, please see Josie or Pr. Guss. Thank you for your support!

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**A:** Let us Pray:

**C:** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor .... ✠ ..... And give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

ELW# 264

### Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God’s peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav’n a - bove.



Let ev - ’ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - ’ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God’s prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God’s word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## SENDING

**P:** Go in peace, serve the Lord! **C:** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE – J. Sebastien Rogers, Organist

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THE CHANCEL FLOWERS TODAY are given by Don Bickel to the Glory of God in Honor of Johanna’s and Maria’s Birthday.

**CHURCH COUNCIL ANNUAL RETREAT TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 AM-1:00 PM**

Church Council’s Annual Retreat will be held at the University of Miami on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, at 8:30 AM. Church Council, please make a special effort to be in attendance for this important meeting as we reflect, pray, discuss, plan, and ask God to lead and guide Str. Mark’s ministry for the coming year.

**NEXT REGULAR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 7:00 PM**

Our next regular church council meeting will take place Tuesday, August 21 at 7:00 PM. Due to the Church Council Retreat to be held on Saturday, July 21st, there will be no Tuesday evening Church Council meeting scheduled in July.

**SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE TRAVELING NEXT JULY 4<sup>th</sup> WEEKEND**

We pray for the safety of all those individuals and families who will be traveling next July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION – NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 1st**

Please plan to stay for fellowship hour next Sunday immediately after worship as we plan to sing Happy Birthday and celebrate all those members and friends in the parish who are celebrating their birthday during the month of July.

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT OFFERING A RIDE TO YOUR FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO WORSHIP?**

Here is an ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL IDEA! Have you considered offering a ride to your neighbor, friend, or family member to come to church? What a great way to help a friend and grow our church. Think about it!

**COMING TO CHURCH IS IMPORTANT!**

As we work together to expand our programs of ministries, all members and friends of the parish are requested to regularly attend weekly worship.

**ST. MARK’S NEEDS EVERYONE TO BECOME PART OF AN OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Think about serving God and your church in one of the following exciting ministry opportunities!

**WORSHIP MINISTRIES (6)** – altar guild, lectors/worship assistants, ushers/greeters, vestry, Chancel Choir, Children’s Choir

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES (4)** – Children Sunday Church School, Adult Bible Study, First Communion & Confirmation Ministry, Youth Ministry

**EVANGELISM MINISTRIES (11 ministries)** – Prayer Ministry, Visitation Ministry, Counseling Ministry, Care Network, Fellowship Ministry, Community Outreach, Transportation Ministry, Media Ministry, E.L.C.A. Hunger Fund Ministry, Discretionary Fund Ministry

**LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES (4):** Finance Bookkeeping Committee, Property Work Team, Music Leadership Team, Church Council

*(Please see Pr. Guss or Administrative Assistant Josie Largacha if you have interest. Also, check out [saintmarkslutherancoralgables.org](http://saintmarkslutherancoralgables.org) for more information on each ministry.)*

**There’s a Voice in the Wilderness**

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the

call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the

high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.

The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the

loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now

plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
 na - tions shall and pass like a dream a way.  
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.  
 Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988  
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COMMUNION HYMN

“In His Time” - Words and Music by: Diane Ball

Verse 1:	Verse 2:
In His time...In His time;	In Your time...In Your Time;
He makes all things beautiful in His time.	You make all things beautiful in Your time.
Lord, please show me ev'ry day	Lord, my life to You I bring;
As You're teaching me Your way,	May each song I have to sing
That You do just what You say in Your time.	Be to You a lovely thing in Your time.

*(After the Eucharistic meal has ended and everyone has returned to their seats, please stand.)*

18 **P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you keep you in his grace.  
**C: Amen.**

*Happy Birthday!*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JUNE CELEBRANTS**

**06/02** Samuel Givens, **06/06** Arthur Bein, **6/16** Werner Baur  
**6/18** Shirley Wijesinha, **6/24** Don Moore, **6/25** Johanna Johnson, **6/25** Maria Morarin  
**6/25** Allegra Hill, **6/27** Ionas Kopania

If we missed listing your birthday, forgive us, Please call the church office and update your information at 305/444-0425

*This Week ...*

**AT ST. MARK'S**

**SUNDAY 06/24: John the Baptist**

**10:00 a.m.:** Family Worship Mass and Children's Time

**11:00 a.m.:** Fellowship and Refreshments

**TUESDAY 06/26:**

**7:30 p.m.:** Care Network Ministry

**SUNDAY 07/01: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00 a.m.:** Family Worship Mass and Children's Time

**11:00 a.m.:** Fellowship and Refreshments

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*(Please be seated.)*

**COMMUNION CANTICLE**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**EUCCHARISTIC MEAL:**

*(Congregation invited to kneel during Communion by Intinction.)*

## ORDER OF MASS

### Mass Intention: To the Glory of God!

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P:** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord, Jesus, took bread, and gave thanks: broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

**P:** Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

#### Acclamation *Great Thanksgiving*

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a-gain.

Music: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949  
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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**P:** Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

#### Amen *Great Thanksgiving*

A-men, a-men, a-men.

Music: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949  
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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#### *Introduction*

*John the Baptist is a unique figure in Christian memory, a hinge between the Old Testament prophets and the first Christians. In the gospel stories he recognizes Jesus as one greater than himself, one for whose coming he prepares the way. But still from his prison he asks if Jesus is truly the Expected One. He is a figure of perpetual Advent and in that way stands for all of us who may be Christian believers but still wait and wonder, discern and doubt.*

### PRELUDE & PEALING OF THE ST. MARK'S MEMORIAL CARILLON

### WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P:** In the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, our God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(A time for personal confession and prayer)*

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C: You asked for my hands, my mouth, and my eyes to serve. I've given only a small part of my life to you. Forgive me, renew me, and send me into the world with a changed heart, O God, that I might live to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his only Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained Pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

**INTRODUCTORY RITE** *(Please greet your fellow worshippers with a sign of peace.)*

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

# GATHERING HYMN

(Please stand.)

ELW # 249

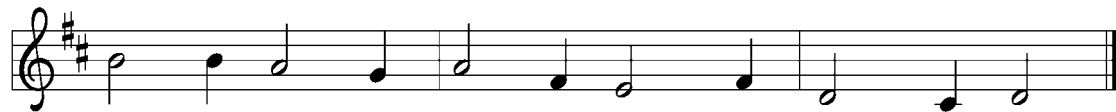
## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

# OFFERING

Offertory Anthem - ELW # 250 - "Blessed be the God of Israel"

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Let us Pray.

**C:** Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray through Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is right to give thanks and praise.

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
 that we should at all times and in all places  
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
 through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
 You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
 through whom you will also make all things new  
 in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## APOSTLES' CREED

**A:** Let us confess the words of our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## FAMILY PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ, and for all people according to their needs. (*Congregation may be seated.*)

(*After each prayer petition is offered:*)

**P:** Lord, in your mercy.

**C:** Hear our prayers.

**A: We Pray for:** Jennifer Rego, Heloise Woods, Johanna Johnson, Josefina Kaye, Josefina Cortina, Sharon Arbuz, The Pacheco Family, Petra Lichtenberger, Stephanie Delgado, Irene Hahn, Helmuth Wagner, Hans Winzer, Renardo Hardy, David Calzadilla, Cindy Crebbin, Dottie Bobbitt, Kevin Padron, Janine Weideman, Adriaan Visser, Jacob Mestre, Robyn Moore, Ricardo Guerrero, Alicia Corrales, Lois Gee, Walt Stone, Werner Baur, Anne Mace, Jeremiah David Hines, Michael Daley, Annette Perez, Pastor Arnold Perry, Betty Phillips, Arland Tyler Sr., Arland Tyler Jr., Maria Teresa Ruiz Montalvo Bombino, Susie Holloway, Alisson & Sandra Osvaldt, Maria Landin, Dinusha Dietrich, Reinaldo Gomez, Frank Nelson, Erick Largacha, Laurie Hill, Bob Collins, Bob Kramer, Julia Rego, David Pacheco, Willie Silverio

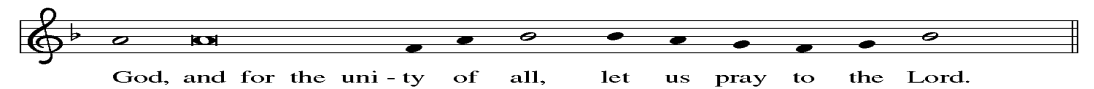
**P:** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.



(Pass your prayer requests to the center aisle during the hymn of the day.)

*Refrain*  
 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
 to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
 high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,  
 we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*  
 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
 to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
 high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right  
 hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*  
 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
 to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
 high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -  
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est.  
 A - - men, a - - men.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551



**GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]**

*The birth and naming of John ends his father Zechariah's silence. He announces the child's name given by the angel and speaks a prophecy about the newborn infant.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." <sup>61</sup>They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup>Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: [ <sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup>He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup>as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup>that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. <sup>72</sup>Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. <sup>78</sup>By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, <sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." <sup>80</sup>The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.]

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: *Look For God In The Mirror To See Who You Are.***

**HOMILY: *Who Are You?***

**P:** The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

*The prophet Malachi announces the coming of one who will prepare a way for God's arrival. His burning program of reform will make God's people ready for salvation.*

**A:** A reading from Malachi, the 3rd chapter.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 141

The refrain is sung once by the cantor, then by the congregation at the beginning and ending of the psalm. The psalm is chanted responsively with the congregation singing the **bold** verses.

*My eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD.*

### PSALM TONE



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- <sup>1</sup>O LORD, I call to you; come | to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I | cry to you.
- <sup>2</sup>**Let my prayer rise before | you as incense,**  
**the lifting up of my hands as the | evening sacrifice.**
- <sup>3</sup>Set a watch before my | mouth, O LORD,  
and guard the door | of my lips.
- <sup>4</sup>**Let not my heart incline to any | evil thing.**  
**Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers, nor eat of | their sweet foods.**
- <sup>5</sup>Let the righteous strike me; their rebukes, as oil upon the head, are not to | be refused.  
Yet my prayers are continually against the deeds | of the wicked.
- <sup>6</sup>**Let their rulers be thrown down up- | on the stones,**  
**that they may hear my words, for | they are sweet.**
- <sup>7</sup>Just as one who tills the earth | breaks the rock,  
so let their bones be scattered at the mouth | of the grave.
- <sup>8</sup>**But my eyes are turned to | you, Lord GOD;**  
**in you I take refuge; strip me not | of my life.**
- <sup>9</sup>Guard me from the trap that they have | laid for me  
and from the snares of | evildoers.
- <sup>10</sup>**Let the wicked fall into | their own nets,**  
**while I a- | lone pass through. R**

## SECOND READING: Acts 13:13-26

*In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul preaches in the synagogue and recalls the ministry of John the Baptist, showing how John was the pivot point between history and the new acts God was performing through Jesus.*

**A:** A reading from Acts, the 13th chapter.

<sup>13</sup>Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. <sup>15</sup>After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.” <sup>16</sup>So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: “You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. <sup>17</sup>The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. <sup>18</sup>For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup>After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance <sup>20</sup>for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. <sup>21</sup>Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. <sup>22</sup>When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, ‘I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.’ <sup>23</sup>Of this man’s posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; <sup>24</sup>before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup>And as John was finishing his work, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.’ <sup>26</sup>“My brothers, you descendants of Abraham’s family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.”

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

