

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

The Nativity of John the Baptist
24 June 2012



Rembrandt H. van Rijn (1606–69): *The Naming of John the Baptist*

**He will go before the Lord
to prepare His way.**

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A note to visitors

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

The Offering

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

Children in the Service

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

There is a Sunday School for children during the sermon. The children leave at the beginning of the sermon and return to church before the Service of the Sacrament.

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room. If you do need to take a child

outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

Holy Communion

It is our desire that all people receive the body and blood of our Lord at this altar! However, our Lord has told us in His Word that His body and blood, given into our mouths, are powerful and not to be given or received lightly or in a careless way. Therefore, in respecting the Word of the Lord that anyone who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner is doing harm to themselves, and that He desires that all who commune together be truly united in the confession of the truth, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

All who are visiting us and who desire to commune with us are asked to first speak with our pastor before the service, so that all can make an informed decision about participating with us in our fellowship in this place. *We are not condemning anyone with this practice*; we seek only to follow the Word of the Lord and carry out responsible pastoral care.

Thank you for honouring our beliefs.

A note on the service:

Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.

The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.

It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.

Explanation of Symbols:

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

575 *Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

184 *Confession and Absolution*

Catechism

P The Fourth Commandment

C Honour your father and your mother.

P What does this mean?

C We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honour them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

P The fifth commandment:

C You shall not murder.

P What does this mean?

C We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbour in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

P The sixth commandment:

C You shall not commit adultery.

P What does this mean?

C We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honour each other.

Introit (Luke 1:68, 76–79; antiphon: Mal. 3:1)



A Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.*

And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

C Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,*
for he has visited and redeemed
his people.

A And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

C to give knowledge of salvation to his people*
in the forgiveness of their sins,

A because of the tender mercy of our God,*
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

C to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,*
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

❖ *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen*

A Behold, I send my messenger, and he will
prepare the way be- | fore me.*
And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly
come to his | temple.

186 *Kyrie*

187 *Gloria in excelsis*

189 *Salutation and Collect of the Day*

Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the fore-
runner of Christ, You once proclaimed salvation.
Now grant that we may know this salvation and
serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days
of our life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament reading—Isaiah 40:1–5

- ¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
³ A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Gradual (*Jer. 1:5, 9b*)

C Before I formed you in the womb I | knew
you,*
and before you were born I
conse- | crated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the | nations.*
Behold, I have put my words | in your
mouth.

Epistle Reading—Acts 13:13–26

¹³ Now Paul and his companions set sail from Pa-
phos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John
left them and returned to Jerusalem, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ After the reading from
the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the syn-
agogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers,
if you have any word of encouragement for the
people, say it."

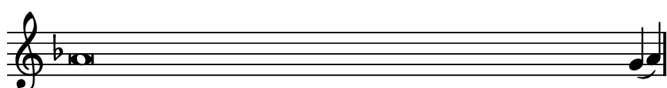
¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ ²³ Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

²⁶ “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.

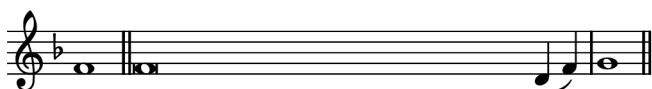
Alleluia & Verse (Luke 1:17)



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



He will go before him in the spirit and power of E li -



jah* to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading—Luke 1:57–80

☐ The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And

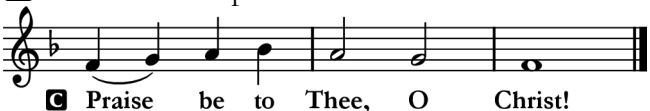
they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets
from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham,
to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of
our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all
our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of
the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare
his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on
high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in
the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



191 *The Nicene Creed*

344 Hymn: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's
Cry

Sermon

192 *The Offertory*

Offering

193 *Prayer of the Church*

510 Hymn: A Multitude Comes from the
East and the West

194 *The Service of the Sacrament*

199 *Nunc Dimittis and Post-Communion
Prayers*

202 *Blessing*

821 *Hymn: Alleluia, Sing to Jesus*

Sunday School Presentation

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members

Ron

Family and friends of members

Lucy, Diana; Ilse Kelly; Alex, Sarah & family; Frank Knibbs; Helen Kriewaldt; Johann Wiebusch; Claire; Margaret & Patrick Tustin; Brian, Jan & family; Lisa; Julie; Cynthia; Marie & family; Sally; Claire and Phil; Julie Gardner; Christine; Georgie & Nigel; Rob; Gina; Pauline; Graham; Lorna; Carol; Trevor; Holly & family

ELCE

Luther Tyndale Memorial Lutheran Church, Pr. Flor; Pastors' Study Week; Boor family (St. Andrew's); Van Fossan family; Sonja (Oxford Mission)

The Church of God

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium; Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Hill Park Baptist Church

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD THE SMALCALD ARTICLES ARTICLES II AND IV

II

[The] chief office or force of the Law is to reveal original sin with all its fruits. It shows us how very low our nature has fallen, how we have become utterly corrupt.. The Law must tell us that we have no God, that we do not care for God, and that we worship other gods—something we would not have believed before and without the Law. In this way, we become terrified, humbled, depressed. We despair and

anxiously want help, but see no escape. We begin to be an enemy of God, and to complain, and so on. This is what Paul says, “The law brings wrath” (Rom. 4:15). Sin is increased by the Law., “The law came in to increase the trespass” (Rom. 5:20). Paragraph 4-5

IV

The Gospel ... does not give us counsel and aid against sin in only one way. God is super-abundantly generous in His grace: First, through the spoken Word, by which the forgiveness of sins is preached in the whole world. This is the particular office of the Gospel. Secondly, through Baptism. Thirdly, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar. Fourthly, through the Power of the Keys. Also through the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren, “Where two or three are gathered,” (Matthew 18:20) and other such verses.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Week Ahead

Today	5pm	Pastor at Oxford Lutheran Mission
25–27 June		Pastor’s Study Week (Cambridge)
26 June	7.30pm	Ladies’ Guild Meeting
27 June		<i>No Pastor’s Surgery</i>
28 June	7.45pm	Bible Study (Parsonage)
1 July	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)

Further ahead

4 July	12.30pm	Pastor’s Surgery (The Hub)
5 July	7.45pm	Bible Study (Parsonage)
7 July	5.30pm	Saturday Supper (Scout Hall)
8 July	10.30am	Morning Service (Scout Hall)
11 July	12.30pm	Pastor’s Surgery (The Hub)
	2pm	Devotion at Kiln Lodge & Hunters Lodge
12 July	7.45pm	Voters’ Assembly (Parsonage)
24 July—13 August		<i>Pastor on Annual Leave</i>

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Genesis 50:15–21; Romans 8:18–23; Luke 6:36–42

Daily Readings:

Sun: Proverbs 30:1–9, 18–33 John 20:19–31 *Augsburg Confession XVII–XIX*
 Mon: Prov 31:10–31 John 21:1–25 *AC XX: 1–18*
 Tue: Joshua 1:1–18 Acts 8:1–25 *AC XX: 19–40*
 Wed: Josh 2:1–24 Acts 8:26–40 *AC XXI*
 Thu: Josh 3:1–17 Acts 9:1–22 *AC XXII*
 Fri: Josh 4:1–24 Acts 9:23–43 *AC XXIII*
 Sat: Josh 5:1–6:5 Acts 10:1–17 *AC XXIV: 1–20*