

Collect: 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 to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Galatians 3.23–29

²³ Before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ; ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Luke 1.57–66, 80

⁵⁷ The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' ⁶¹ They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' ⁶² Then they

began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁸⁰ The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.



Post Communion: 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 your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord:

Make his paths straight,
bringing honour to his name.

Prepare the way of the Lord:

With courage and kindness, honesty and hope.

Prepare the way of the Lord:

With much strength or little,
whatever you have.

Prepare the way of the Lord:

With a smile, a helping hand,
and a listening ear.

Prepare the way of the Lord:

With words of vision and encouragement,
challenge and direction.

Prepare the way of the Lord:

With acts of compassion,
and generous hearts.

Prepare the way of the Lord:

For the young, the old, and all in between.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Though the world seems against you,
and the road may be hard.

Prepare the way of the Lord:

Make his paths straight,
bringing honour to his name.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

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Weekly News Sheet: Please send any items for the news sheet to Bevaly: call 407432 or email bevalyrackett@hotmail.com by Thursday 2pm

CL number 273056. MRL number 890305