

All Saints Hallows Together



Prayer and Praise

Birth of John the Baptist

28 June 2020

Join the service online:

<https://rebrand.ly/saintsandhallows>

OPENING MUSIC

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

We meet in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Eternal God, source of all blessing,
help us to worship you
with all our heart and mind and strength;
for you alone are God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.**

**We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.**

**For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.**

Amen.

ABSOLUTION

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.

All Amen.

COLLECT

John the Baptist proclaimed,
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Matthew 3.2

Let us turn to the Lord in penitence and faith
and humbly confess our sin.

All Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

SECOND READING Luke 1.57-66,80

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted

to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

REFLECTION

PRAYERS

Let us pray for the Church, the world,
our nation and our communities.

For the sick and those who care for them,
remembering those who have died,
and praying for all who grieve.

For the lonely and isolated,
those who have to work but are afraid.

For ourselves, our families and friends.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All 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,
 the power, and the glory
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN

1 And can it be that I should gain
 An interest in the Saviour's blood?
 Died he for me, who caused his pain?
 For me, who him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! How can it be
 That thou, my God, shouldst die for me? [x2]

- 2 'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:
 Who can explore his strange design?
 In vain the first-born seraph tries
 To sound the depths of love divine!
 'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
 Let angel minds enquire no more. [x2]
- 3 He left his Father's throne above -
 So free, so infinite his grace -
 Emptied himself of all but love,
 And bled for Adam's helpless race.
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
 For, O my God, it found out me! [x2]
- 4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
 Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 Thine eye diffused a quickening ray -
 I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
 My chains fell off, my heart was free,
 I rose, went forth, and followed thee. [x2]
- 5 No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
 Alive in him, my living Head,
 And clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ, my own. [x2]

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) HymnQuest ID: 50540

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Heavenly Father,
 we share together the blessing of your presence.
 Give us in this life knowledge of your truth,
 and in the world to come life everlasting;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated)

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

New Patterns for Worship 2nd edition © The Archbishops' Council 2008

Prayers for use during the coronavirus outbreak (booklet) © The Church of England

Collect (birth of John the Baptist) © The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)