

## Introit

*Luke 1:68, 76–79; antiphon: Malachi 3:1*



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.

Blessèd be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has visited and redeemed his people.

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

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

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

in the forgiveness of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God,

whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

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.**

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.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 49:1–3, 5a, 6b, 7b*

Coasts and islands, listen to me; distant peoples, pay attention. The Lord called me before I was born. He named me while I was in my mother's womb. He made my words like a sharp sword; he hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me like a sharpened arrow; he hid me in his quiver. He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." And now, says the Lord, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him so that Israel might be gathered to him; I will also make you a light for the nations, to be my salvation to the ends of the earth. "Kings will see, princes will stand up, and they will all bow down because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel—and he has chosen you."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 85:7–13; antiphon: v. 9*



<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

## Second Reading

*Acts 19:1–7*

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” “No,” they told him, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” “Into what then were you baptized?” he asked them. “Into John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy. Now there were about twelve men in all.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse of the Day

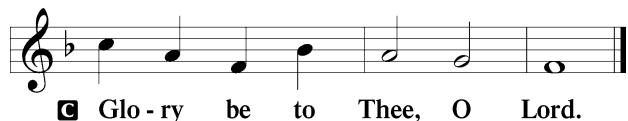
*Luke 1:17a, d*

- P** Alleluia. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:57–68*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she had a son. Then her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her his great mercy, and they rejoiced with her. When they came to circumcise the child on the eighth day, they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. But his mother responded, “No. He will be called John.” Then they said to her, “None of your relatives has that name.” So they motioned to his father to find out what he wanted him to be called. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they were all amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came on all those who lived around them, and all these things were being talked about throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard about him took it to heart, saying, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the Lord’s hand was with him. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and provided redemption for his people.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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