

The Nativity of St. John The Baptist

A reading from the prophet Malachi, chapter 3, beginning at the 1st verse.

This passage may be found in your pew Bible on page 1106.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

“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,
Even the Messenger of the covenant,
In whom you delight.
Behold, He is coming,”
Says the LORD of hosts.
“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 launderers’ soap.
He will sit as a refiner and a purifier
of silver;
He will purify the sons of Levi,
And purge them as gold and silver,
That they may offer to the LORD
An offering in righteousness.
“Then the offering of Judah and
Jerusalem

Will be pleasant to the LORD,
As in the days of old,
As in former years.
And I will come near you for judgment;
I will be a swift witness
Against sorcerers,
Against adulterers,
Against perjurers,
Against those who exploit wage earners
and widows and orphans,
And against those who turn away
an alien—
Because they do not fear Me,”
Says the LORD of hosts.

“For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;
Therefore you are not consumed, O sons
of Jacob.

This is the word of the Lord.

(Pause for a count of 5)

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The Psalter – Psalm 82

GOD standeth in the congregation of
princes; * he is a Judge among gods.

How long will ye give wrong judgment, *
and accept the persons of the ungodly?

Defend the poor and fatherless; * see that
such as are in need and necessity have right.

Deliver the outcast and poor; * save them
from the hand of the ungodly.

They know not, neither do they understand,
but walk on still in darkness: * all the foun-
dations of the earth are out of course.

I have said, Ye are gods, * and ye are all the
children of the Most Highest.

But ye shall die like men, * and fall like one
of the princes.

Arise, O God, and judge thou the earth; *
for thou shalt take all nations to thine inher-
itance.

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For the Epistle, a reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 40, beginning at the 1st verse. This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 242.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God. And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea. And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he

spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.