



Fourth Sunday after Trinity
28th June 2026
10am St John's, Kidlington

*Please feel free to sit, kneel, or stand
as you are able or comfortable.*

Today we are thinking about two prophets. Throughout the service we will be celebrating the birth of John The Baptist, who is the patron saint of this church. So today is our Patronal Festival. And we will be thinking how far it is possible to have hope in the dysfunctional world in which we find ourselves. This is something the prophets Jeremiah knew a thing or two about. We'll be bearing more about that in our Old Testament reading and sermon. Both John and Jeremiah point to Jesus.

The Gathering

Processional Hymn: (AMNS 27)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

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

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

Lord Jesus, you stand among us, and we do not recognize you.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, we are not worthy to untie the thong of your sandals.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

The God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest
And peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and
Father, We worship You, We give You thanks,
We praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
Receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

The Collect

Let us pray.

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.

AMEN

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Please sit

Reading: Jeremiah 28:1-9

Jeremiah and the Prophet Hananiah (Good News Bible)

That same year in the fifth month of the fourth year that Zedekiah was king, Hananiah son of Azzur, a prophet from the town of Gibeon, spoke to me in the Temple. In the presence of the priests and of the people he told me that the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, had said: "I have broken the power of the king of Babylonia. Within two years I will bring back to this place all the Temple treasures that King Nebuchadnezzar took to Babylonia. I will also bring back the king of Judah, along with all of the people of Judah who went into exile in Babylonia. Yes, I will break the power of the king of Babylonia. I, the Lord, have spoken."

Then in the presence of the priests and of all the people who were standing in the Temple, I said to Hananiah, "Wonderful! I hope the Lord will do this! I certainly hope he will make your prophecy come true and will bring back from Babylonia all the Temple treasures and all the people who were taken away as prisoners. But listen to what I say to you and to the people. The prophets who spoke long ago, before my time and yours, predicted that war, starvation, and disease would come to many nations and powerful kingdoms. But a prophet who predicts peace can only be recognized as a prophet whom the Lord has truly sent when that prophet's predictions come true."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn:

God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging Word;
each from age to age proclaiming
God the one, the righteous Lord!
In the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor still holds fast,
God is on his throne eternal,
he alone the first and last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ the everlasting Son,
brightness of the Father's glory,
with the Father, ever one:
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God, before all time began,
light of light, to Earth descending,
Man, revealing God to man.

God is speaking by his Spirit
speaking to the hearts of men;
in the age-long Word declaring
God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith is standing fast:
God abides, his Word unchanging,
God the first and God the last.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 1:57-66

The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard how wonderfully good the Lord had been to her, and they all rejoiced with her.

When the baby was a week old, they came to circumcise him, and they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. But his mother said, "No! His name is to be John."

They said to her, "But you don't have any relative with that name!" Then they made signs to his father, asking him what name he would like the boy to have.

Zechariah asked for a writing pad and wrote, "His name is John." How surprised they all were! At that moment Zechariah was able to speak again, and he started praising God. The neighbors were all filled with fear, and the news about these things spread through all the hill country of Judea. Everyone who heard of it thought about it and asked, "What is this child going to be?" For it was plain that the Lord's power was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Please sit

Sermon

Please stand

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Please sit or kneel

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

The Lord God of Israel has come to his people to set them free
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn:

The prophets spoke in days of old,
declaring God to men,
the message of his sovereign will
they brought to earth again.

Yet hearts were hardened, ears were closed,
and few would heed the word,
for human pride and human greed
preferred what could be heard.

Lord, may we learn from what is past,
and listen to your voice,
that in the beauty of your truth
our spirits may rejoice.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Wise and gracious God,
You spread a table before us:
Nourish your people with the word of life
And the bread of heaven.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Among those born of women
you marked out John the Baptist with your special favour
as the one who prepared the way before your Son.
His birth brought great rejoicing;
even in the womb he leapt for joy, so near was our salvation.
Alone of all the prophets,
John hailed the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.
He baptized Jesus, the author of baptism,
in waters made holy by the one baptized.
By shedding his blood
he gave his last and greatest witness to your Son.
And so with angels and archangels
and all the heavenly host
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power

Be yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
Who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
But only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

You are welcome to receive communion: bread and wine which are the body and blood of Christ. Please indicate whether you would like to take the wine from the common cup (also known as the chalice) or for the bread to be dipped (also called intinction). Gluten free bread (wafers) are available at the altar; please let us know when you come up. If you would rather not receive communion simply remain seated, or come up for a blessing instead.

Communion Hymn:

What does the Lord require
for praise and offering?
What sacrifice, desire
or tribute did you bring?
Do justly,
love mercy,
walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear!
Should you not justice know?
Will God your pleading hear
while crime and cruelty grow?
Do justly,
love mercy,
walk humbly with your God.

Still down the ages ring
the prophet's stern commands:
to merchant, worker, king,
he brings God's high commands:
do justly,
love mercy,
walk humbly with your God.

How shall our life fulfill
God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will
with grace to fortify.
Then justly,
in mercy,
we'll humbly walk with God.

Prayers after 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. **Amen**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen
life; we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices

The Sending Out

Please stand

The Blessing

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and those
whom you love, this day and always.
Amen.

Recessional Hymn:

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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2006 CCL No: 267079*

Please support the cake & bake sale after the service to raise funds for the youth away weekend.

Remember there's more cake (plus tea and coffee) at St Mary's this afternoon and every Sunday throughout the summer from 3-5pm. You may remember that in Lent we ran a Stewardship Campaign. This was needed because our expenditure as a Parish is currently bigger than our income, despite our best efforts to limit our expenses, and we are having to dig into our reserves.

We asked the congregation to prayerfully reflect on the way they support our Parish financially, and we are extremely grateful for the engagement you have shown to the request.

The response has been most encouraging, and I am pleased to announce that the budget setting process that will start in the autumn will be a lot less stressful than it has been in recent years.

From new people coming into our planned giving scheme, and existing donors prayerfully reflecting on their own situations, we have increased our regular income by approximately £35,000, and this will help us address the current budget shortfall, enable us to build up some reserves over time or fund new initiatives.

Whether you increased, decreased, started or maintained your financial contribution, we thank you sincerely for your support to the campaign, for all the prayerful reflection.

The **Safeguarding** Officer for our parish is Yo Davies:

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Clergy Team

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