**Sunday 26 June 2022**

**Second Sunday after Trinity &**

**St John the Baptist Patronal Festival**

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.

FIRST READING

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her

that her hard service has been completed,

that her sin has been paid for,

that she has received from the LORD’S hand

double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;

the rough ground shall become level,the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,

and all the people will 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 like grass

and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

The grass withers and the flowers fall,

because the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.

The grass withers and the flowers fall

but the word of our God endures for ever.’

You who bring good news to Zion,go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,

lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah,

‘Here is your God!’

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,

and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him,

and his recompense accompanies him.

He tends his flock like a shepherd:

he gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart;

he gently leads those who have young.

PSALM **Psalm 85:7-end**

Show us your unfailing love, LORD,

and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what God the LORD says;

he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants-

but let them not turn to folly.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,

That his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;

righteousness and peace kiss each other.

faithfulness springs forth from the earth,

and righteousness looks down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed give what is good,

and our land will yield its harvest.

Righteousness goes before him

and prepares the way for his steps

SECOND READING

**Galatians 3:23-end**

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

THIRD READING

**Luke 1:57-66, 80**

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the LORD had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, ‘No! He is to be called John.’

They said to her, ‘There is no one among your relatives who has that name.’

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, ‘His name is John.’ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking ‘What then is this child going to be?’ For the Lord’s hand was with him.

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until 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.