June 24th
The Nativity of John the Baptist
Stichera at the Praises

1) O strange wonder! John, the messenger sent forth before God the Word, maketh haste to come forth today from a mother full of years, who is stricken and gray with age; and by his birth, he doth make the fettered tongue to speak distinctly with sweetest eloquence.

O Thine ineffable care and providence for us, O Master Christ! Whereby save our souls, since Thou alone art merciful.

2) O strange wonder! He who is above the Prophets,
being more great than all those born of woman kind
doth undo the sore reproach of his own mother's
barrenness; for he doth come in the spirit and the pow'r
of great E li - as, pre par - ing the Lord's way.

How in - ex - press - i - ble is Thy ten - der mer - cy,
O our Mas - ter Christ! Where - by save our souls, since
Thou a lone art mer - ci - ful.
3) O strange wonder! He that heralded Christ's self-abasement to men is declared higher than all men by the voice of Christ Himself; and with power bestowed by God, today he endeth his mother's barrenness and setteth loose Zacharias' bounden voice.

O Thy great works, O Christ, and Thy mighty wonders, O our Sovereign Lord! Whereby save those honoring Thy great Forerunner John.
4) O strange wonder! Lo, the messenger preaching Christ's coming on earth, who had leapt in his mother's womb, John the Prophet of the Lord and His Forrunner, hath been shown to be the highest of all the Prophets' choir and greater far than all those of women born. O Thy majestic gifts, O Thou Friend of man! Whereby, O Christ, do Thou save our souls, O Master, since Thou art omnipotent.