

June 24th

The Nativity of John the Baptist

Stichera at the Praises

Byzantine Chant Tone 8
The Original melody

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih
from various sources

D C

1) O strange won - der! John, the mes - sen - ger sent forth be -

G↓

- fore God the Word, mak - eth haste to come forth to - day

C G↓ C

from a moth - er full of years, who is strick - en and

G↓

gray with age; and by his birth, he doth make the fet - tered tongue

C

to speak dis - tinct - ly with sweet - est el - o - quence.

Un. G↓

O Thine in - ef - fa - ble care and prov - i - dence for

us, O Mas - ter Christ! Where - by save our souls, since

C

Thou a - lone art mer - ci - ful.

June 24th - Nativity of John the Baptist - Stichera at the Praises - 2

2) O strange won - der! He who is a - bove the Proph - ets,
 be - ing more great than all those — born of wom - an - kind
 doth un - do the sore re - proach of his own moth - er's
 bar - ren - ness; for he doth come in the spir - it 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.

June 24th - Nativity of John the Baptist - Stichera at the Praises - 3

3) O strange won - der! He that her - ald - ed Christ's self - a -

-base - ment to men is de - clared__ high - er than all men

by the voice of Christ Him - self; and with pow - er be -

- stowed by__ God, to - day he end - eth his moth - er's bar - ren - ness

and set - teth loose__ Zach - a - rias' - s bound - en voice.

O__ Thy great works, O Christ, and Thy might - y won - ders,

Un. O our Sov - 'reign Lord! Where - by save those hon - or -

- ing Thy great Fore - run - ner__ John.

June 24th - Nativity of John the Baptist - Stichera at the Praises - 4

D C

4) O strange won - der! Lo, the mes - sen - ger preach - ing Christ's

G↓

com - ing on earth, who had leapt in his moth - er's womb,

C G↓ C

John the Proph - et of the Lord and His For - run - ner,

G↓

hath been shown to be the high - est of all the Proph - ets' choir

C

and great - er far than all those of wom - en born.

O Thy ma - jes - tic gifts, O Thou Friend of man! Where -

Un. G↓

- by, O Christ, do Thou save our souls, O Mas - ter,

C

since Thou art om - nip - o - tent.