

*September 23rd*

## Conception of the Forerunner and Baptist John

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Chant Tone 4

Special melody: *Thou who wast called from on high*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

E

1) While ex - e - cut - - ing as priest the sa - cred of - - fice

G E

in the di - vine Tem - ple, off - 'ring up the peo - ple's prayers

D

un - to the Lord All - com - pas - sion - ate and Ben - e - fac - tor,

E

the most di - vine Zach - a - ri - as then be - held

G E

a di - vine and ho - ly An - gel cry - ing un - to him:

D

Thy sup - pli - ca - tion and prayer is heard; take heart, O El - der,

E

and doubt me not, for thou shalt be - get a child,

D

the Lord's di - vine Fore - - run - ner, who in truth

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is far greater than any of woman born;

G  
in the pow'r of E - li - - - as,  
he shall go be - fore the prom - ised Christ.

E  
2) Thou seem - est strange in thy coun - te - nance and man - - ner;  
strange to me be all these words and tid - ings thou hast brought;

G  
so Zach - a - ri - as re - plied to him. For I came hith - er  
to ask sal - va - - tion - for all the peo - ple's sake,

G  
not in - deed to have a child as thou hast said to me.  
I find thee con - trar - y to the things which I have asked for;

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and I sur - mise \_\_\_\_\_ that thou tell - est not the truth,  
for how shall what \_\_\_\_\_ thou say - est be con - firmed?  
For E - liz - a - beth suf - freth from bar - ren - ness;  
as for me, as thou se(e) - - - - est,  
I am ver - y far ad - vanced in years.

3) Where-fore dost thou doubt my words, O Zach - a - ri - - as?  
Where - fore dost thou say I bring false tid - ings un - to thee?  
I am an Arch - an - gel of our God, and stand be - fore thee  
to tell thee all \_\_\_\_\_ that hath been com - mand - ed me;

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G and since thou hast not be - lieved but rath - er dis - be - lieved,  
 thou shalt be dumb and shalt speak no more till thou be - hold - est  
 that what I say, \_\_\_\_\_ God Him - self shall bring to pass;  
 and when E - liz - a - beth shall bear for thee  
 the great voice of the Word, the Fore - run - ner John,  
 with thy tongue speak - ing plain - - - ly,  
 thou shalt bless the God of Is - ra - el.