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This Sunday's Gospel (Luke 1:57-66) relates the great joy of the birth of John the Baptizer, the forerunner of our Lord. The birth of a baby son caused a great joy not just for his parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, but for their contemporaries with their astonishment: 'What will this child be?' John's mission was to point the way to the Lord calling the people to prepare as the Kingdom is at hand.

As we are coming close to the celebration of Christmas, may we always keep in mind that Jesus is the reason for the season. Let us heed the words of John and prepare ourselves to receive the Lord in our hearts.

<sup>+</sup>A. Elias Zaidan
Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of
Lebanon of Los Angeles

## BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST DECEMBER 4, 2022

John, the newborn child, has come as a voice for God Most High. O Judean hills, rejoice! Aaron's daughter gave him birth. Exult, for this news has spread throughout the Church, bringing hope and joy.

Zechariah's tongue was loosed, and with thanks, he then proclaimed: "O John, child of God, as a prophet you are born. You will go prepare the way before the Lord, who will come to save the world."

Sedro-Liturgy of the Word for the Birth of John the Baptist

