

**Malachi 4:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

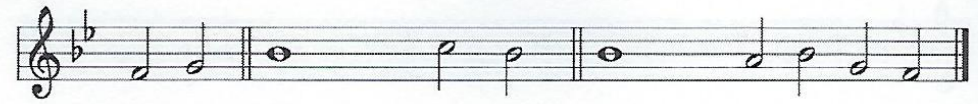
**Isaiah 40:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God. <sup>2</sup> “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” <sup>3</sup> The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; <sup>5</sup> The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

**St. Luke 1:57-80**

<sup>57</sup> Now Elizabeth’s full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. <sup>58</sup> When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup> So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. <sup>60</sup> His mother answered and said, “No; he shall be called John.” <sup>61</sup> But they said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.” <sup>62</sup> So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called. <sup>63</sup> And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, “His name is John.” So they all marveled. <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. <sup>65</sup> Then fear came on

all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. <sup>66</sup> And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, “What kind of child will this be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup> Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: <sup>68</sup> “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, <sup>70</sup> as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, <sup>72</sup> to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, <sup>78</sup> through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” <sup>80</sup> So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

**Introit.**

*Ant.* THE VOICE || of him that crieth in the | wilder- | ness:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a | highway |  
for | our | God.

|| And the glory of the | Lord | - :

shall | be | re- | veal- | ed.

*Psalm.* || It is a good thing to give thanks unto the | Lord | - :

and to sing praises unto Thy | Name, | O | Most | High.

GLO-RY || be to the Father and to the | Son | - :

and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost,

AS IT || was in the beginning, is now, and ever | shall | be:

world with- | out | end. | A- | men. (*Ant. Repeated.*)

**Collect.**

O Lord God, Heavenly Father, Who, through Thy servant John the Baptist, didst bear witness that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God Which taketh away the sin of the world and that all who believe in Him shall inherit eternal life: We humbly pray Thee to enlighten us by Thy Holy Spirit that we may at all times find comfort and joy in this witness, continue steadfast in the true faith and at last with all believers attain unto eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.*

**Epistle. Isaiah 40:1-5****Gospel. Luke 1:57-80****Gradual.**

|| And thou child shalt be called the prophet of the | High- | est:

for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to | pre- | pare | His | ways.

|| John bare witness of Him, and cried | say- | ing,

This was He | of | Whom | I | spake,

|| He that cometh after me is preferred be- | fore | me:

for He | was | be- | fore | me.

|| Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Behold the Lamb of | God | - :

Which taketh away the sin of the world. | Hal- | le- | lu- | jah.

# Festival of the Nativity of John the Baptist

## 91. O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art


O Lämmlein Gottes, Jesu Christ

Weimar

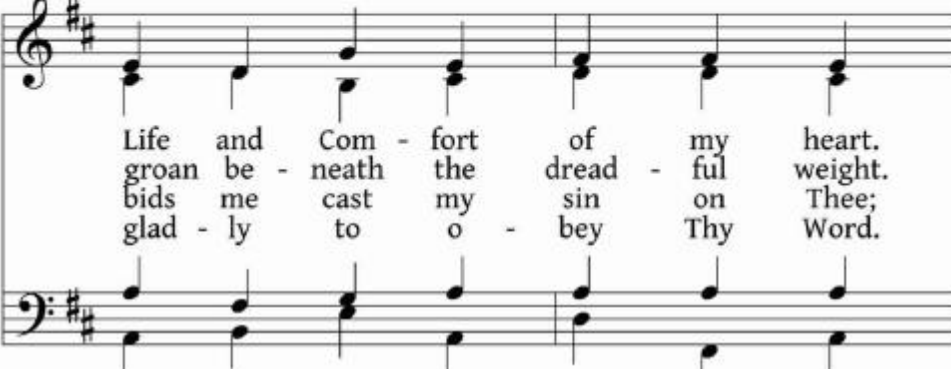
Bartholomäus Helder, 1646

C.P. Emanuel Bach, 1784

Tr., August Crull, 1880, alt.



1. O Je - sus, Lamb of God, Thou art The  
2. O God, my sin in - deed is great; I  
3. Saint John the Bap - tist points to Thee And  
4. Help me to mend my ways, O Lord, And



Life and Com - fort of my heart.  
groan be - neath the dread - ful weight.  
bids me - neath the my sin on Thee;  
glad - ly cast to o - bey Thy Word.



A sin - ner poor I come to Thee And  
Be mer - ci - ful to me, I pray; Take  
For Thou hast left Thy throne on high To  
While here I live, a - bide with me; And



bring my man - y sins with me.  
guilt and pun - ish - ment a - way.  
suf - fer for the world and die.  
when I die, take me to Thee. A - men.