

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



2nd Sunday in Advent

4 December 2022 - Year A

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.”

Something to Think About

John the Baptist had a very important mission. He was chosen by God to prepare the way for Jesus. God has a mission for each of us too. What do you think God wants you to do in your life to help people to see Jesus?

The Story

John the Baptist told all the people that Jesus was coming and urged them to get ready. Crowds of people went to hear what John had to say. They said they were sorry for all the things they had done wrong and John baptised them in the river. John promised them that someone much more powerful was going to come soon. Who do you think he was talking about?

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

3:1-9, 11

John the Baptist started preaching in the desert of Judea. He said, "Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here."

John was the one the prophet Isaiah was talking about, when he said,

"In the desert someone is shouting, 'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.'"

John wore clothes made of camel's hair. He had a leather strap around his waist and ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

From Jerusalem and all Judea and from the Jordan River Valley crowds of people went to John. They told how sorry they were for their sins, and he baptised them in the river.

Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to be baptised. But John said to them: "You bunch of snakes! Who warned you to run from the coming judgment? Do something to show that you have really given up your sins. And don't start telling yourselves that you belong to Abraham's family. I tell you that God can turn these stones into children for Abraham.

"I baptise you with water so that you will give up your sins. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video:

[John the Baptist and Jesus](#)



Group Discussion

The word 'sin' comes from a Greek word which means 'to miss the target'. When we 'sin', we miss the target of living and loving like Jesus did. Turning back to God is like trying to 'hit the target'. Present to the children a drawing of a bull's-eye and invite them to add some words that explain what it means to live and love like Jesus. Preparing the way of the Lord means living and loving like Jesus.

Praying For Others

Leader: As we join our minds and hearts in prayer, let us bring our hopes and dreams to God.

Reader 1: We pray that we will be patient with others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will be honest and tell the truth. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that we will try hard to do the right thing. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for the courage to talk to people who are sad or lonely. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will say sorry when we do the wrong thing. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,

Be with us as we try to make good choices each day. Help us to say sorry when we hurt others and to turn back to you.

Amen.

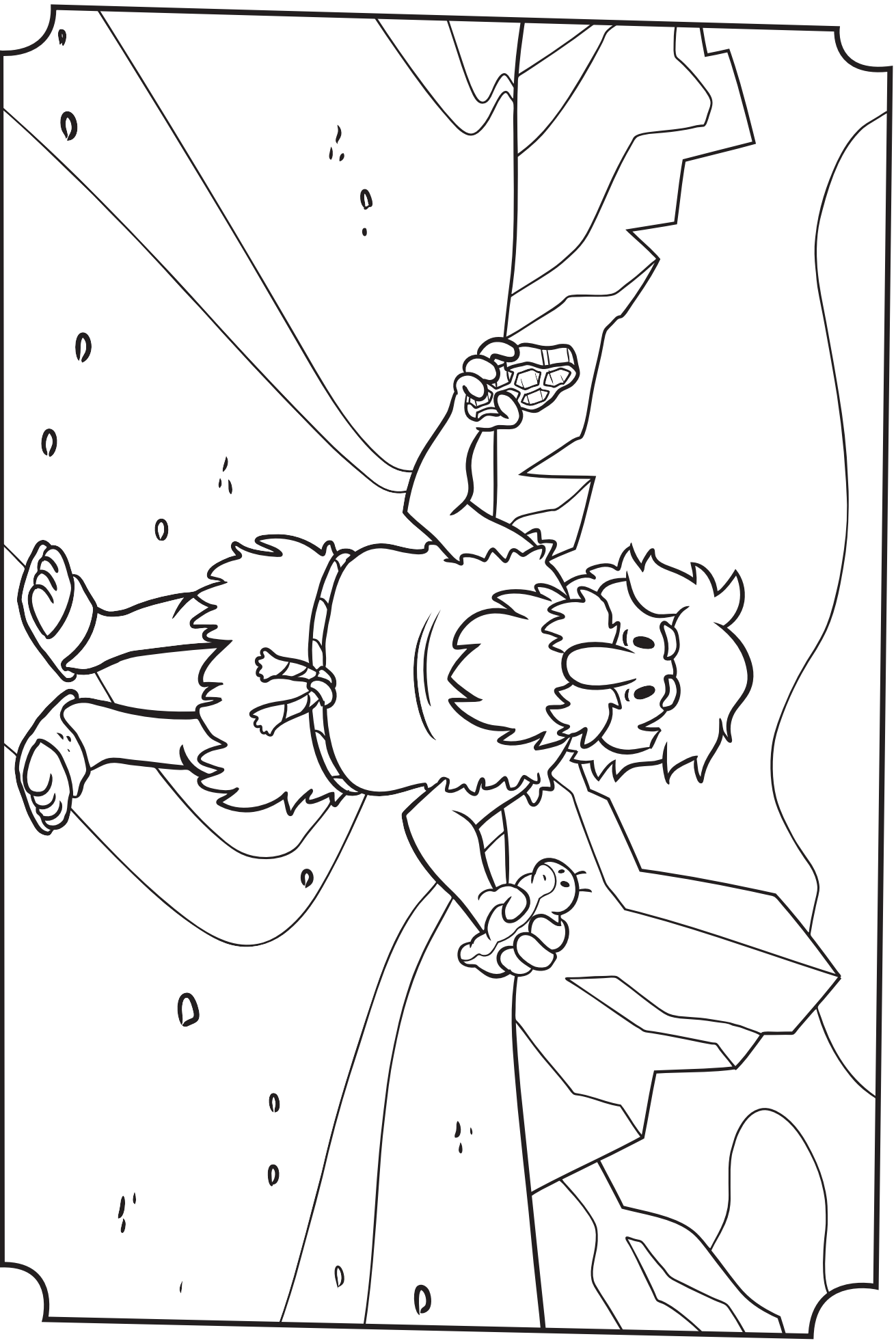
Group Activity

JOHN THE BAPTIST COLOURING PAGE

You will need: a colouring sheet for each child, coloured pencils, markers or crayons, small pieces of brown wool, glue.

1. Invite children to colour in the picture of John the Baptist in the wilderness.
2. Then ask children to place glue all over John the Baptist's tunic.
3. Children press pieces of wool into the glue, to give him clothes made of camel's hair.





John the Baptist was a prophet! He lived in the desert and ate bugs and honey.
Matthew 3

Make a Christmas sign for
your bedroom door



**COME,
LORD JESUS!**



**ADVENT – GET THE ROAD
READY FOR THE LORD!**