

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent Year B

10 December 2023

**“Make straight the paths  
of the Lord.”**

### Something to Think About

How do you get ready for Christmas?

What happens at school, at home and at church during Advent while we wait for Jesus' birth?

### The Story

The gospel this week starts with words from the prophet Isaiah: “In the desert, someone is shouting, ‘Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.’” Then it moves on to the story of John the Baptist. John was the one shouting in the desert, telling people to turn back to God. John baptised people with water in the Jordan River, but he also told the people that someone more powerful than him would come and baptise them with the Holy Spirit. That ‘someone more powerful’, was Jesus.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark**

**1:1-8**

This is the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It began just as God had said in the book written by Isaiah the prophet,

"I am sending my messenger to get the way ready for you.

In the desert someone is shouting,

'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him.'

So John the Baptist showed up in the desert and told everyone,

"Turn back to God and be baptised! Then your sins will be forgiven."

From all Judea and from Jerusalem crowds of people went to John.

They told how sorry they were for their sins, and he baptised them in the Jordan River.

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

"Someone more powerful is going to come.

And I am not good enough even to stoop down and untie his sandals.

I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video.

[God's Story: John the Baptist](#)



## Group Discussion

Think carefully about John's message. "Turn back to God... Then your sins will be forgiven."  
How might we change direction in our own lives to draw closer to God?  
What should we try to change in our hearts and in our actions?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader 1:* We pray for Church and world leaders. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for all who are sick or who have died recently. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for a listening heart. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray that we will be sorry for the things we have done wrong. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will be helpful and patient throughout the holidays. 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



Lord Jesus,  
Help us to prepare a way for you in  
our minds and hearts.  
May we be sorry for the things we  
have done wrong and rest in your  
forgiving love.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

*You will need:*

*Print-out of road template (below) on A3 or A4 paper.*

*Coloured markers for writing and drawing.*

The prophet Isaiah told people to get the road ready for Jesus. If you knew Jesus was coming to your house this week, what would you do to get ready? Would you act more kindly towards others? Would you be more helpful? Would you be more generous?

Print out the roadway on A3 or A4 paper.

Record your ideas along the side of the road either by writing or drawing how you will get the road ready for Jesus this Advent.



# Make the road ready for Jesus



# ADVENT

**IS A TIME TO GET READY  
FOR CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS**

**DRAW JOHN BAPTIST BAPTISING PEOPLE IN THE RIVER.  
HIS CLOTHES WERE MADE OF CAMEL'S HAIR.  
HE WORE A LEATHER BELT AROUND HIS WAIST.**



**JOHN THE BAPTIST GETS PEOPLE READY FOR CHRIST  
BY BAPTISING THEM IN THE JORDAN RIVER.**