

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



3rd Sunday in Advent Year B

17 December 2023

**“There stands among you,
unknown to you, the one who is
coming after me.”**

Something to Think About

In today's gospel, the people ask John the Baptist to tell them who he really is. If somebody asked you to tell them who you really are, what would you say?

The Story

In today's gospel, the people ask John the Baptist who he really is, and why he is baptising people. John says he is not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet. John tells the people that he is preaching and baptising in order to prepare for someone else who is coming after him. We know that the person John is talking about must be very special, because John doesn't even feel worthy to untie that person's sandals. We know that the person John was talking about was Jesus.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to John 1:19-28

The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and temple helpers to ask John who he was. He told them plainly, "I am not the Messiah."

Then when they asked him if he were Elijah, he said, "No, I am not!"

And when they asked if he were the Prophet, he also said "No!"

Finally, they said, "Who are you then? We have to give an answer to the ones who sent us. Tell us who you are!"

John answered in the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"I am only someone shouting in the desert, 'Get the road ready for the Lord!'"

Some Pharisees had also been sent to John.

They asked him, "Why are you baptising people, if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John told them, "I use water to baptise people. But here with you is someone you don't know. Even though I came first, I am not good enough to untie his sandals."

John said this as he was baptising east of the Jordan River in Bethany.

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

Video

Click to watch the video.

[Are You Ready for Christmas?](#)



Group Discussion

John helped the people to recognise Jesus in their midst.
What are some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced in your life?
What do these signs tell us about God and God's love for us?

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 the people of God. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who try to do what is right. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for all who are hurt. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will make our hearts ready for Jesus. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will be confident in telling others about Jesus. 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



Four, three, two, one,
Count the weeks till Jesus comes.
Each week we add another light,
Our hope for Jesus growing bright.
We pray, we share, we do our part,
To welcome Jesus to our heart. Amen.

Group Activity

You will need: paper, pens or pencils, stickers or other decorative items, envelopes (optional).

John had an important job in telling people that Jesus was coming. For this week's activity imagine you have met a person who doesn't know about Jesus yet. It is your job to tell them about Jesus in time for Christmas!

You could tell them one of your favourite bible stories about Jesus. You could tell them about a time you felt Jesus walking with you in your life. You could tell the person about the joy that comes from knowing Jesus. Remind them that Jesus loves them too!

Write a letter, or draw a picture that you could give to that person to introduce them to Jesus.



ALWAYS BE JOYFUL!

CHRIST IS COMING

MAKE UP A TUNE AND SING THESE WORDS



**CHRIST IS COMING
THIS IS GOOD NEWS
JOY NOT SADNESS
PEACE NOT FIGHTING
LOVE FOR ALL**



SING OUT THE GOOD NEWS