

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-10 (11)

(The Gospel Reading is from the part of the Bible that is about Jesus and his ministry.)

2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Questions to talk about with your parents:

- 1) Who was John the Baptist and what did he do?
- 2) Why was John called a prophet?
- 3) How did John point people to Christ?
- 4) What things in our worship service today point you to Christ?
- 5) God sent John the Baptist to the people to point them to Christ, what does God give you to point you to Christ?

People of the Bible: John the Baptist

In the Gospel reading today we hear about John the Baptist. John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah, who was a priest, and Elizabeth. John was born about 6 months before Jesus. The Bible says John lived in the wilderness and wore clothing made of camel hair, and ate locusts and honey. When John was older he preached about Jesus as the coming Messiah and about the baptism of repentance, or turning away from one's sins. He is called a prophet

and a messenger because of this message he proclaimed about Jesus. John said though he was baptizing with water, Jesus would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was ready to begin His ministry, Jesus asked John to baptize him at the Jordan River. John pointed Jesus out as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Later, John was put in prison by Herod, which is shown in the picture on the cover and is where he was in our Gospel reading today.

Catechism Corner

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Thou shalt sanctify the holy day.)

What does this mean? Answer:

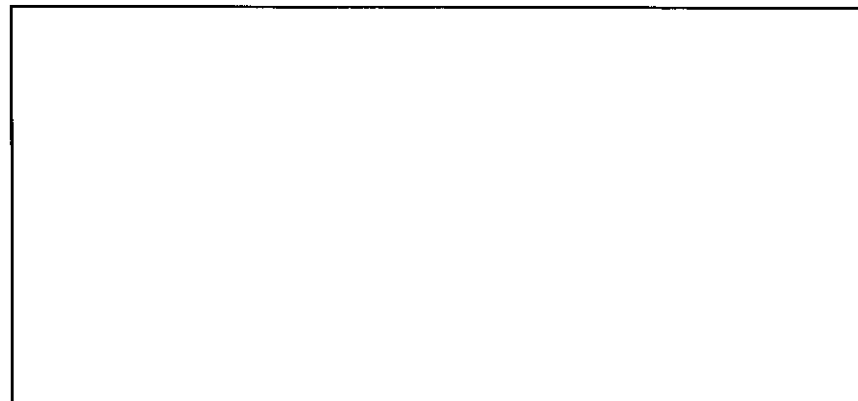
We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Hymn of the Day – "Hark, A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

(Listen for this hymn during the service and sing along if you hear it.)

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!"
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Draw a picture of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus.



Word Scramble

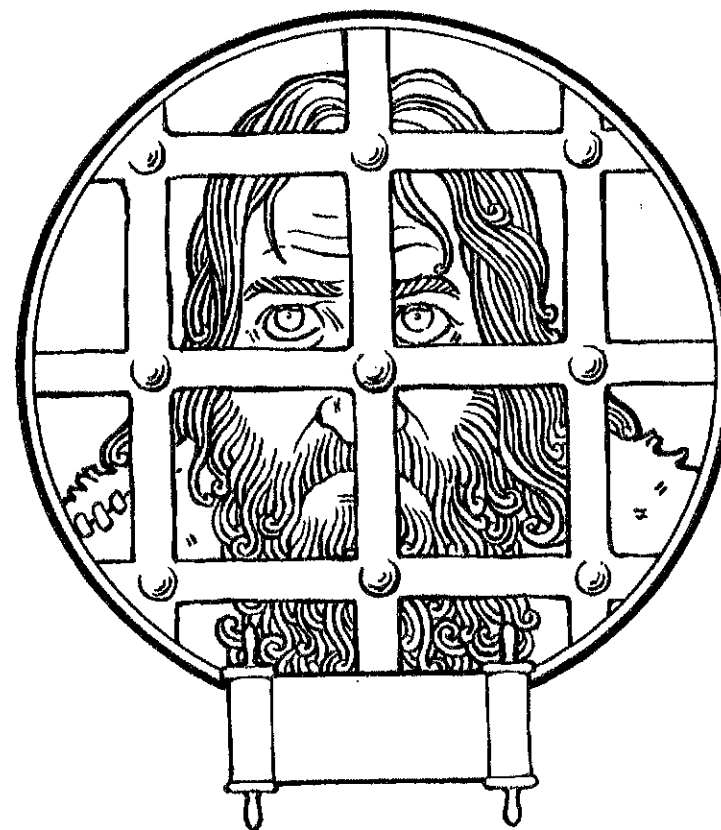
Unscramble each word. They can be found in this week's *Lessons for Lambs*.

honJ _____
isattbp _____
eJssu _____
eprsti _____
rophept _____
ltucso _____
oyhne _____
nedtvA _____
hCirts _____
soriwph _____
siaeshM _____
aitmsbp _____
onJadr _____
eroHd _____
nlewsdsrie _____

LESSONS FOR LAMBS

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (GAUDETE)

The phrase "Gaudete" is from the Latin language. In English it means "Rejoice!" This is the first word of the Psalm/Introit this week. Look in your parent's service folder and read the Introit. The color for Advent is blue or purple. The Third Sunday in Advent is called Rose Sunday, and some churches recognize this with rose paraments or a rose candle.



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What to listen for during the service?

Listen in the service today for things that point you to Christ and tell you about Christ. What do you hear and what gifts has Christ given to you in the service?