

Gaudete (Rejoice)
Sunday
Third Sunday of
Advent



Hope
Peace
Joy
Love





Covid Christmas

Do not Covid thy neighbor

Joy to The World





John the Baptizer

*Make straight the way of
the Lord*

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John 1:6–9

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was **John**. 7 He came as a **witness** to testify concerning that **light, so that through him all might believe**. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a **witness** to the light. 9 The **true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world**.

John 1:19–22

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the **Messiah**." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you **Elijah**?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the **Prophet**?" He answered, "No." 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John 1:23-24

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, **“I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”**

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

John 1:26-28

26 “I **baptize with water**,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. 27 **He is the one** who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

28 This all happened at **Bethany** on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John the Baptist

- John is described as wearing clothes of camel's hair, living on locusts and wild honey (Matt 3:1-12)
- proclaims baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin, and says another will come after him who will not baptize with water, but with the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:1-12)



St. John the Baptist Preaching, c. 1665,
by Mattia Preti

John the Baptizer

- birth of John was foretold by the angel Gabriel to Zechariah while he was performing his functions as a priest in the temple of Jerusalem (Luke 1: 11-20)
- Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were old and Elizabeth were barren (Luke 1:7)
- Elizabeth is described as a "relative" of Mary the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:36)



St. John the Baptist Preaching, c. 1665,
by Mattia Preti

John the Baptizer

Luke 1:14–17 (NIV)

¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be **great in the sight of the Lord**. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be **filled with the Holy Spirit** even before he is born.



St. John the Baptist Preaching, c. 1665,
by Mattia Preti

John the Baptizer

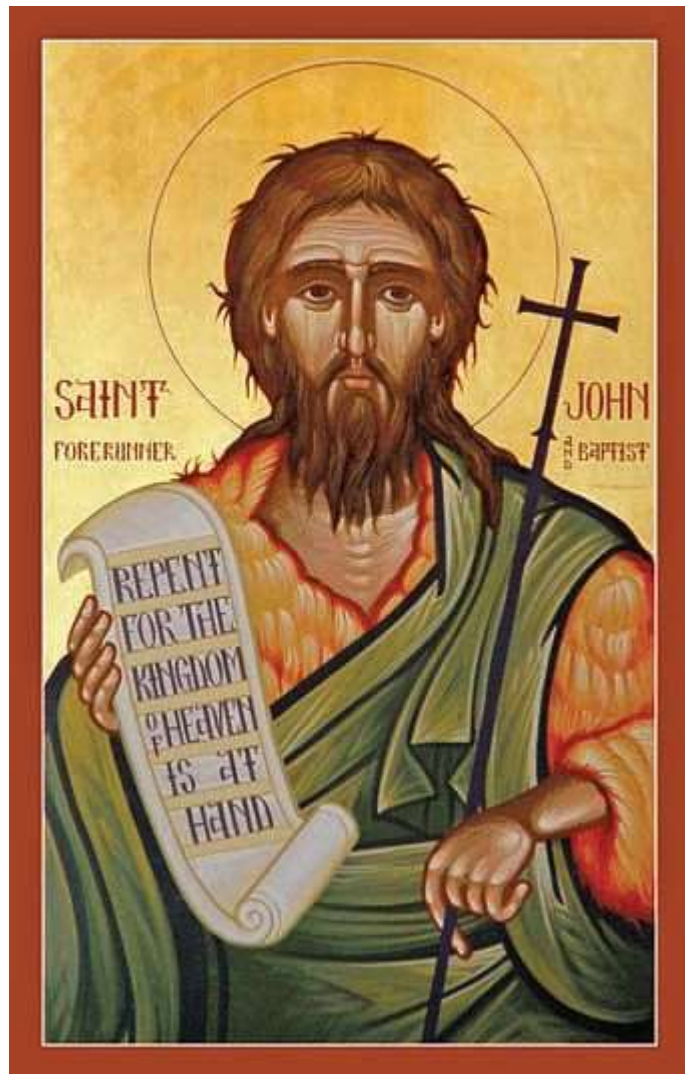
Luke 1:14–17 (NIV)

¹⁶ He will bring **back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.** ¹⁷ And he will **go on before the Lord,** in the spirit and power of Elijah, to **turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”**



St. John the Baptist Preaching, c. 1665,
by Mattia Preti

Role of John the Baptizer



1. Witness (John 1:6-9)
2. Waymaker (John 1: 19-23)
3. Revealer (John 1:24-28)

1. Witness

John 1:6–9

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was **John**. 7 He came as a **witness** to testify concerning that **light, so that through him all might believe**. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a **witness** to the light. 9 The **true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world**.

2. Waymaker

John 1:19–22

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the **Messiah**." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you **Elijah**?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the **Prophet**?" He answered, "No."

Deut 18:15, 18

2. Waymaker

John 1:23-24

22 Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, **“I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”**

3. Revealer

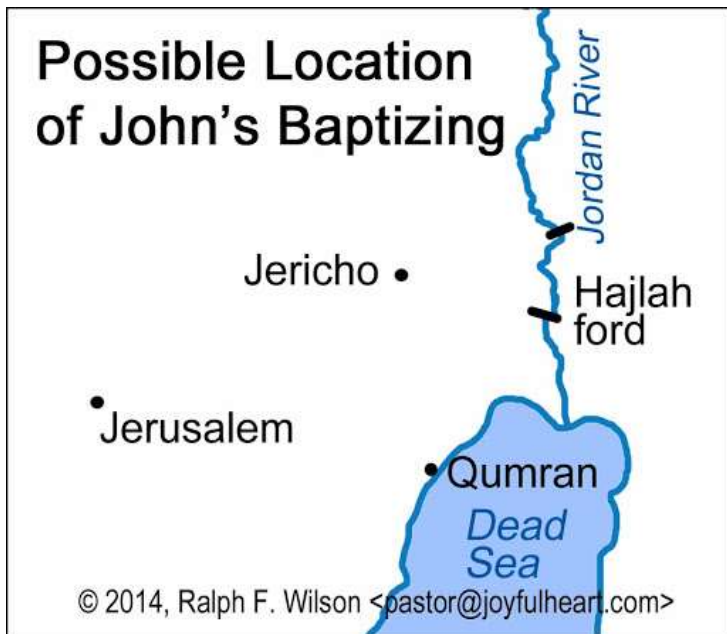
John 1:26-28

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

26 “I **baptize with water**,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. 27 **He is the one** who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

28 This all happened at **Bethany** on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Why did John the Baptizer baptize?



Jesus is revealed

John 1:29–30 (NIV)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, **the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!** 30 This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’

Jesus is revealed

John 1:31–34 (NIV)

³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘**The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.**’ ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

Jesus is revealed

Matthew 3:16–17 (NIV)

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment **heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.** ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, **“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**

**The Mark of
the Lamb
(Rev 7: 1-8)**

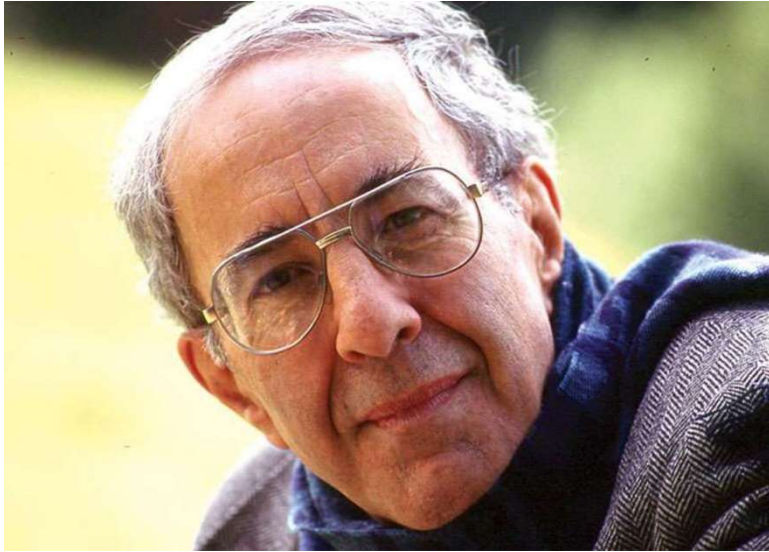


Joy TO THE WORLD

THE LORD HAS COME

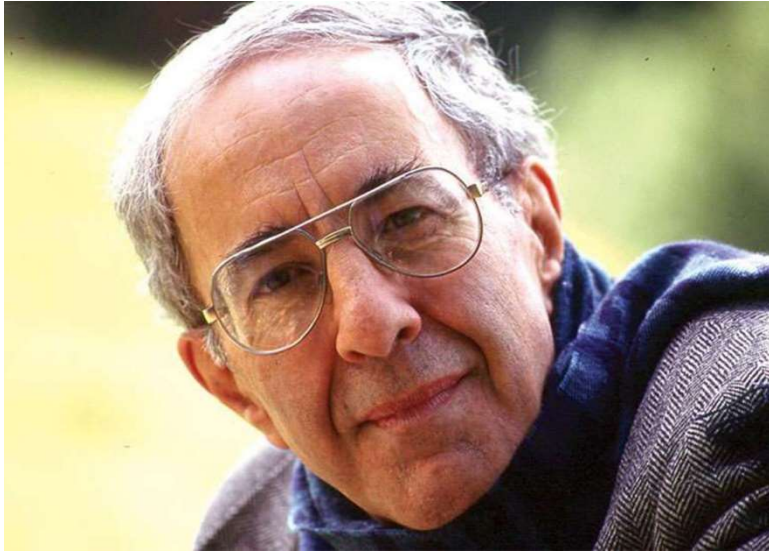
THE LORD HAS COME

THE LORD HAS C



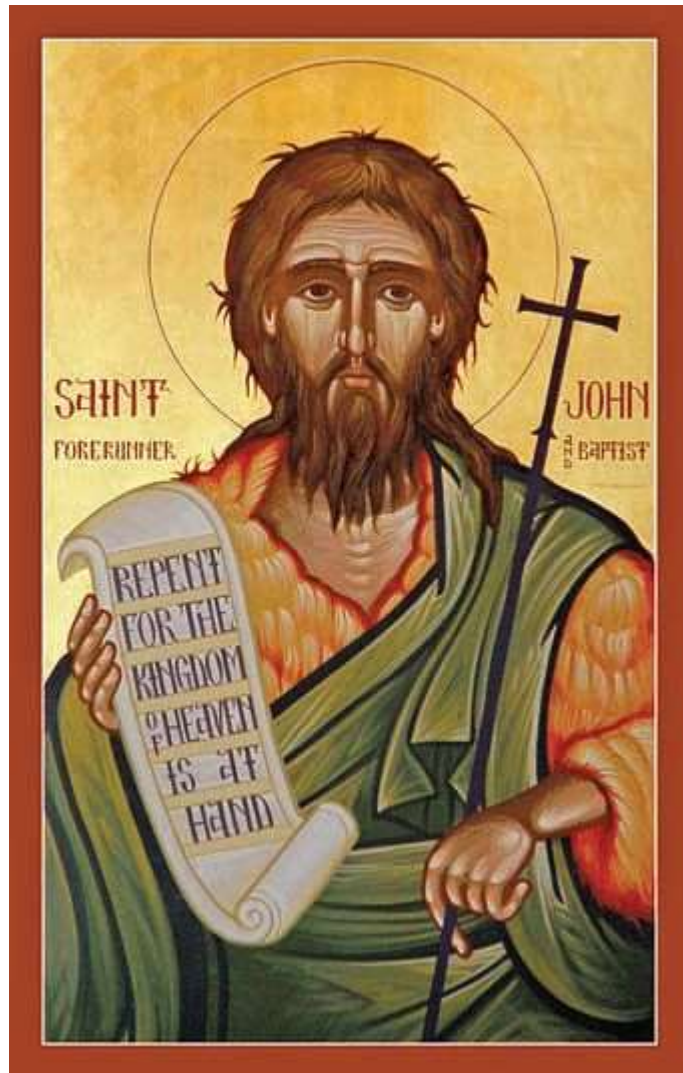
Henri Nouwen

But Advent is not only a period of joy. It is also a time when those who are lonely feel lonelier than during other periods of the year. During this time many people try to commit suicide or are hospitalized with severe depression. Those who have hope feel much joy and desire to give. Those who have no hope feel more depressed than ever and are often thrown back on their lonely selves in despair.



When a person is surrounded by a loving, supportive community, Advent and Christmas seem pure joy. But let me not forget my lonely moments because it does not take much to make that loneliness reappear. . . . When Jesus was loneliest, he gave most. That realization should help to deepen my commitment to service and let my desire to give become independent of my actual experience of joy. Only a deepening of my life in Christ will make that possible.

John the Baptizer



1. Witness (John 1:6-9)
2. Waymaker (John 1: 19-23)
3. Revealer (John 1:24-28)