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# THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

The Very Reverend Walter C. Wagner, O.P., *Pastor*  
James D. Wetzel, *Director of Music and Organist*

## ADVENT PARISH STUDY

### Lift Up Your Heads: God's Word of Hope Sung in Advent


#### Episode 3



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*Hymns for St. John the Baptist:*  
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*Gospel of Advent II B (Mark 1:1-8)*

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*Gospel of Advent III B (John 1:6-8, 19-28)*

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

*Translation from the New American Bible*



## HYMN: GENERAL INFORMATION

Text: *Jordanis oras praevia*

from *Hymni Sacri*, Paris, Usuum Parisiensium, 1736

Charles Coffin (1676-1749)

original Latin trans. John Chandler (1806-1876), alt.

cf. Isaiah 40:3, 7, 9; Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:3-4; John 1; Psalm 46:1

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW      8.8.8.8 (Long Meter)

*Musicalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

harm. William H. Monk (1823-1889)

## POEM

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be ev'ry heart from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let each heart prepare a home  
Where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,  
And bid the fallen sinner stand;  
Shine forth and let thy light restore  
Earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent doth thy people free;  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Ghost forevermore. Amen.

HYMN

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -  
 2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry heart from sin; Make  
 3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our  
 4. To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand, And  
 5. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, Whose

1. noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,  
 2. straight the way for God with - in, And let each heart pre -  
 3. ref - uge and our great re - ward; With - out thy grace we  
 4. bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; Shine forth and let thy  
 5. ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; Whom with the Fa - ther

1. for he brings Glad ti - dings of the King of kings.  
 2. pare a home Where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3. waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 4. light re - store Earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5. we a - dore, And Ho - ly Ghost for - ev - er - more.