

Resource Sheet 56

John the Baptist Matthew 3:1-12

Reading:

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

Make His paths straight.'"

4 Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matthew 3:1-12)

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Is.40:3)

Activity:

Fill in the omitted words and expressions, using the glossary below:

The glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist is also referred to us as John the because he was the came before Christ to prepare others to receive Him. The Forerunner was an ascetic and great, who baptised Christ and became one of the most revered saints in the Orthodox Church. Because he baptised Christ, he is the patron saint of He is sometimes called the and because of this title, he is sometimes depicted with wings.

His birth took place six months before that of Jesus. He spent his early years in the mountainous tract of Judea lying between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea (Matt. 3:1-12). He led a simple life, wearing rope (gamla) fiber clothing and eating "....." (Matt. 3:4). As an adult John started to preach in public. The essence of his preaching was the necessity of and turning away from selfish pursuits. On the banks of the Jordan he baptised thousands unto repentance.

Glossary: Angel of the Desert, Forerunner, godparents, locusts and wild honey, repentance, prophet,

Key:

The glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist is also referred to us as John the Forerunner because he was the came before Christ to prepare others to receive Him. He was an ascetic and great prophet, who baptized Christ and became one of the most revered saints in the Orthodox Church. Because he baptized Christ, he is the patron saint of godparents. He is sometimes called the Angel of the Desert; because of this title, he is sometimes depicted with wings.

His birth took place six months before that of Jesus. He spent his early years in the mountainous tract of Judea lying between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea (Matt. 3:1-12). He led a simple life, wearing rope (gamla) fiber clothing and eating "locusts and wild honey" (Matt. 3:4). As an adult John started to preach in public. The essence of his preaching was the necessity of repentance and turning away from selfish pursuits. On the banks of the Jordan he baptized thousands unto repentance.