

**A member of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Proclaiming Christ 150 YEARS**



Sunday Bible Class:

9:00 am

Sunday Worship:

10:00 am

Wednesday Bible Class

9:00 am

**Holy Communion
is celebrated on the
First, Third, and Fifth
Sunday.**



St. John's Lutheran Church
New Berlin, IL

Welcome

in the name of Jesus!

*We're so glad to have you
join us to worship our Lord!*

*If you are a guest with us
for worship today, please
introduce yourself to our
pastor and stop by the
registration book at the
back of church.*

† **3rd Sunday in Advent** †
December 13, 2020

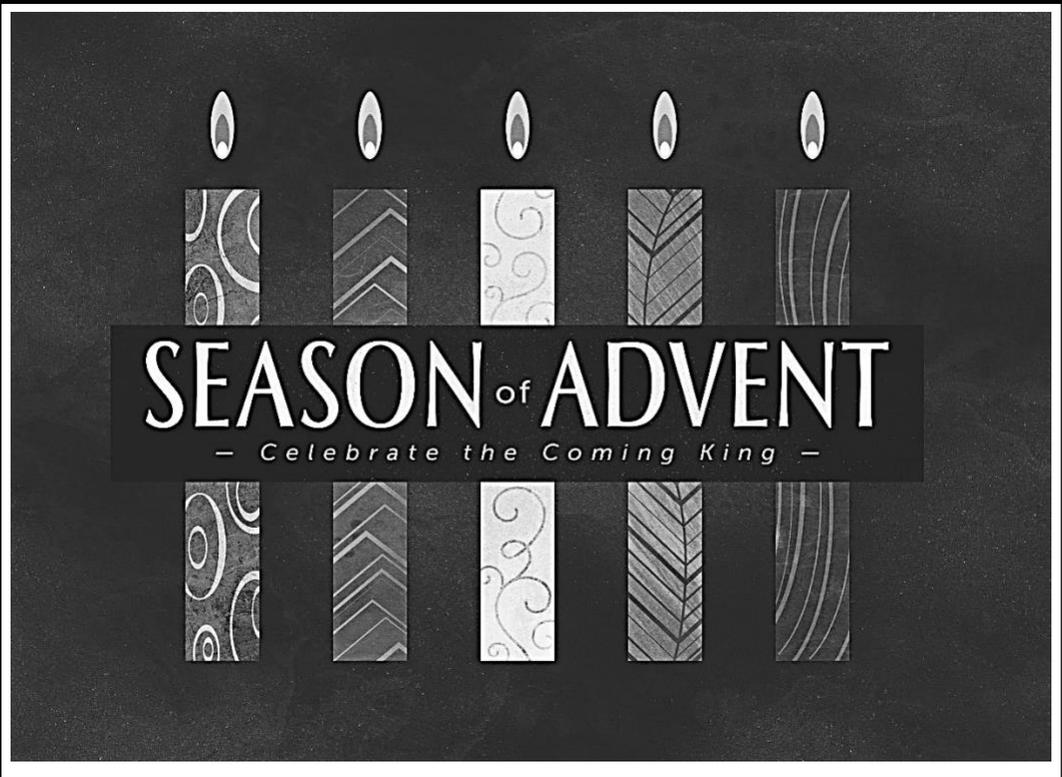
St. John's Lutheran Church
Olive & Gibson Streets
New Berlin, Illinois
(H) 217-488-3190
(C) 217-697-9567
Pastor David Benning
pastorbenning@stjnb.org

Parsonage Hours:

10:00am-4:00pm m,w,st

**Pastor is also available by
appointment.**

For Emergencies 24/7



As We Gather... *On the third Sunday in advent, we light the Joy candle. This year has been full of ups and downs ~ leaving many of us to wonder, "What do we have to be joyful about?" For starters, we have the Joy of forgiveness. A Joy that will be made complete in the Christian Life when Jesus comes back on the last day. A Joy all Christians in the world will celebrate because the Lord has come. So that is why at this season of Advent, we take time to focus not only on Jesus coming into the world but also on His coming back again.*

Opening Hymn:

Once He Came in Blessing

LSB # 333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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Confession and Absolution

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord:

People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

People: **Amen.**

Gloria Patri (*Sung*)

LSB 186

☐ Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie (*Sung*)

Mark 10:47

LSB 186

☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis (*Sung*) Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 187

☐ Glory be to God on high: ☐ and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22 LSB # 189

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with thy Spirit. (Sung)**

Pastor: Let us pray.
People: **Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who
are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of
ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be
glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .
⁸For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with
them.
⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the
peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has
blessed.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of
salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a
beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to
sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter.

People: **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.** (*Sung*)

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.** (*Sung*)

Apostles Creed

LSB 192

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from
the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Children’s Message:

Hymn of the Day:

Arise, O Christian People

LSB # 354



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

JOY

Pastor David Benning

Pastor: Now may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Offering Hymn:

Joy to the World

LSB #387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Giving Options:

There are several ways to give during this time we are not able to meet in person. One is the Give + app, which can be downloaded from your phone's app store. Our E-Giving platform can also be accessed from our website by clicking on the E-GIVING tab at the top of the page. In addition to these two options, we also have a locked drop box on the outside of church next to the bulletins.

Offering Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Lord, continue to use the gifts You have given us, to help others in a way that is kind, gentle, and patient. Give us a heart to share Your Word with the wayward and the lost, and the forgiveness that only comes through Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

[2 Timothy 2:1-4]

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy . . .

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray . . .

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: **And with thy spirit. (Sung)**

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

People: **Thanks be to God. (Sung)**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen, Amen, Amen. (Sung)**

Anniversary Closing Hymn:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB # 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

Time for Announcements

CHURCH NEWS

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Matthew 1: 18-25 served as the basis for today's lesson, "What Shall We Name the Baby?" In Biblical times, the father chose the name of the baby. For Joseph this presented a problem since he and Mary were not married and the child "was conceived by the Holy Spirit" as we say in The Apostle's Creed. God sent an angel with instructions for Joseph, "You shall call His name Jesus for he will save His people from their sins" fulfilling God's promise of a Savior from Isaiah 53. God kept his promise for His people then and for us today through His Word and Sacraments, giving us exactly what we need when we need it.

CHRISTMAS EVE RECORDING TODAY!

Anyone willing to assist with the singing of hymns for the Christmas Eve service are asked to stay after church today for the recording. We will be socially distanced throughout the church. Children will be recorded according to the schedule sent to parents earlier this week. Don't forget to dress up!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Children's Christmas Eve Service will be pre-recorded and available for viewing beginning December 24.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. John's School children presented a Christmas message to the New Berlin Women's Club and the New Berlin Senior Citizens for parts of five decades.

ANNIVERSARY THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"The Son of God became the Son of Man, so the sons of men could become Sons of God."

LWML-CID Mission Grant Mite Bytes 2020No grants were awarded for the month of December.

ANGEL TREE

St. John's will once again participate in supporting the community's Angel Tree! This year, St. John's is collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes. ***This is the final week for collection.***

For Advent 3: December 13, 2020

We've just come through fall election campaigns. How often did you see a candidate being asked a question, but then responding with a different answer? That kind of thing seems to happen a lot among those who are seeking office.

In a Bible passage to be read in our church service on Sunday, a delegation from Jerusalem approached John the Baptizer, the forerunner of Jesus, with a simple question: "Who are you?" (John 1:19).

After making clear who he was *not*, John answered the "WHO are you" question not by telling WHO he was, but WHAT. He said he was *the voice*: "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said" (John 1:23)

John the Baptizer was not seeking an office. The Lord had already given him one. John was the forerunner of the Messiah, and he was carrying out his responsibilities. He would continue carrying them out later when he pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and when he said about Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Someone has said that a person goes wrong to regard himself or herself as a WHO and God as a WHAT. Then it becomes easy to think of God as some sort of crutch or a device for us to use.

Try it the other way around. Like John the Baptizer, think of God as a WHO, and yourself more as a WHAT.

Now, of course, you are a WHO, too. Yet the God Who did not spare His Son but gave Him up for us all is the greatest WHO there is! Trust Him.

KFUO

This week on KFUO.org, tune in to midweek Advent service on 12/16 at 12:00 p.m. CT from Village Lutheran Ladue, study "Advent with the Prophets" on Sharper Iron with Pastor Timothy Appel (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and hear Holiday Wrappings with Ron Klemm sharing classical music of the season (weekdays at 10:30 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or wherever you get your podcasts!

Please submit bulletin information by Noon on Thursday. Email Allicent Smith at Sallicent@gmail.com, or call (217) 341-1757. Thank you!

John the Baptist Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

T U A T E S T I E J O R D A N
U N T E U M S A N D I A T S U
S H I E R W I L D E R N E S S
J O H N O L O R E L S E N D I
A N C O R E M A G N O A C C U
M E A N D I O N S E Q C I S E
N Y S B A P T I S M I D U I S
S H E S E N I A M E O N U S I
L A F E G I A T N S I N S Y T
I L A C O M M O D S R I V E R
R M D U N W N O N E E X Z O R
M E S S I A H U M N P E T A L
U T L O R T X F E G E X T I N
E X I P X E X E R E N T R X J
Q U T A T R X V E R T S I S G

BAPTISM

JORDAN

MESSIAH

SINS

HONEY

LOCUST

REPENT

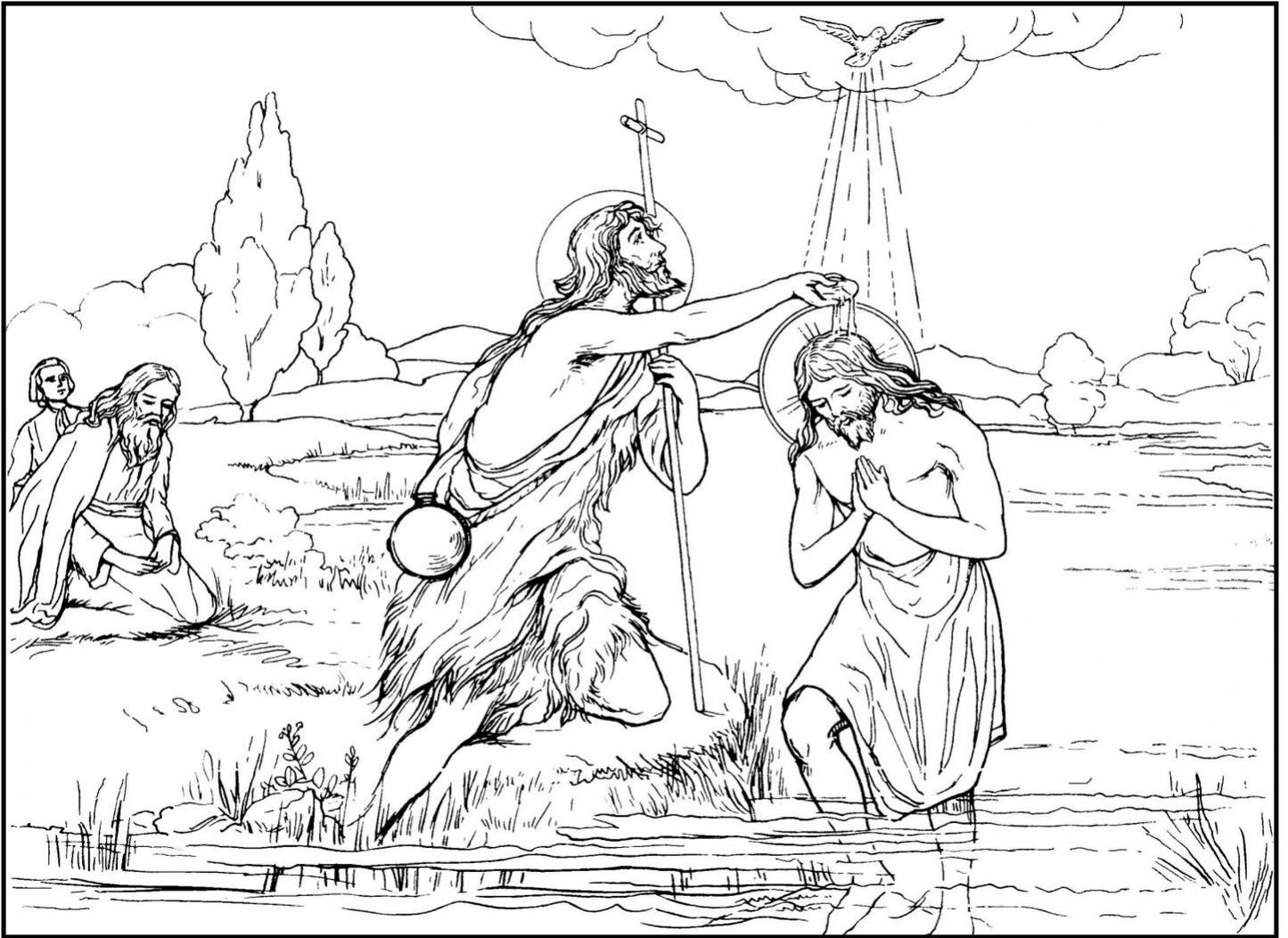
WATER

JOHN

MESSENGER

RIVER

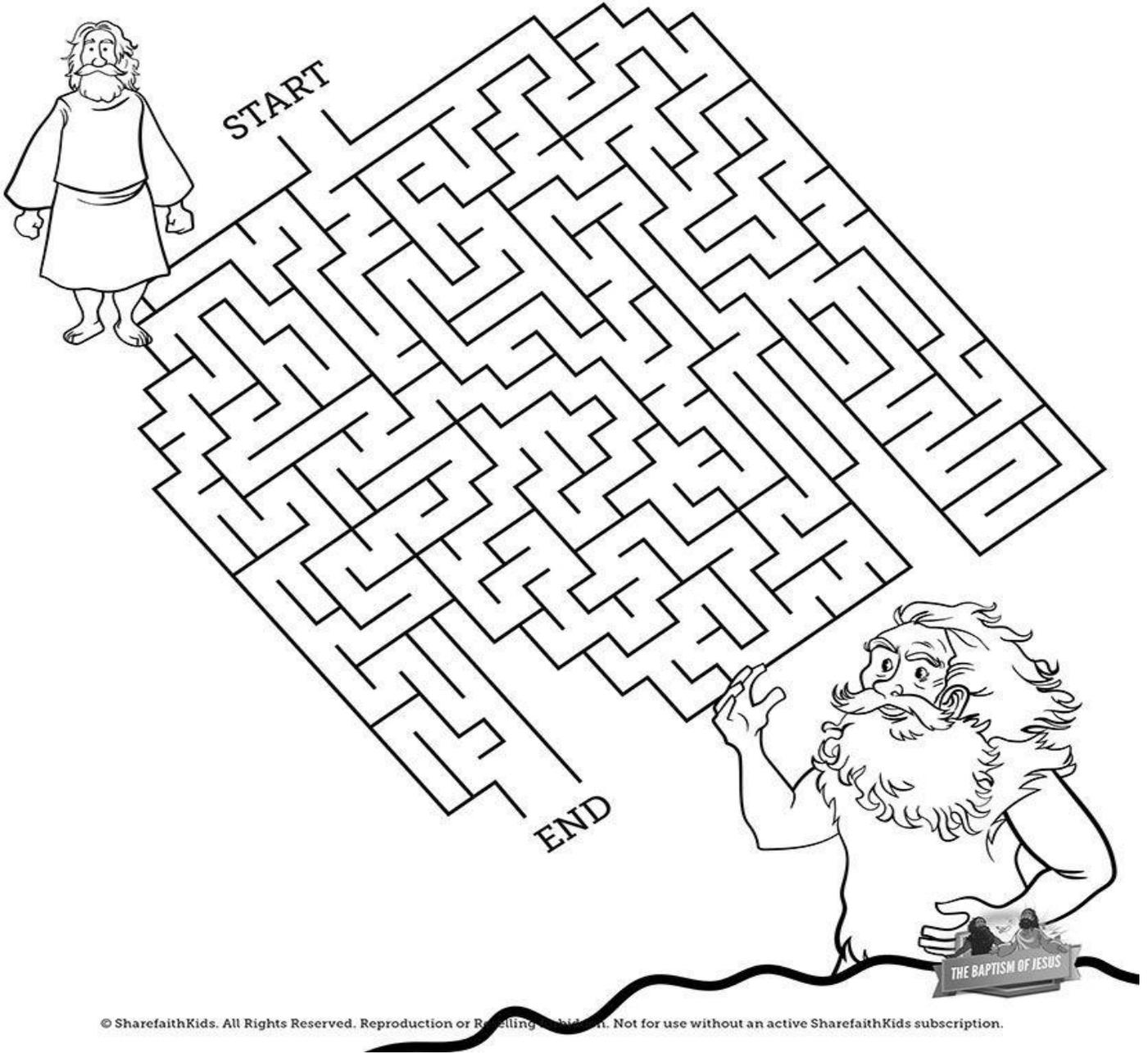
WILDERNESS



Doodle Art Alley ©

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Help Jesus get baptized by John.



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