

PREPARE THE

Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father', for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for 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. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew 3:7-10

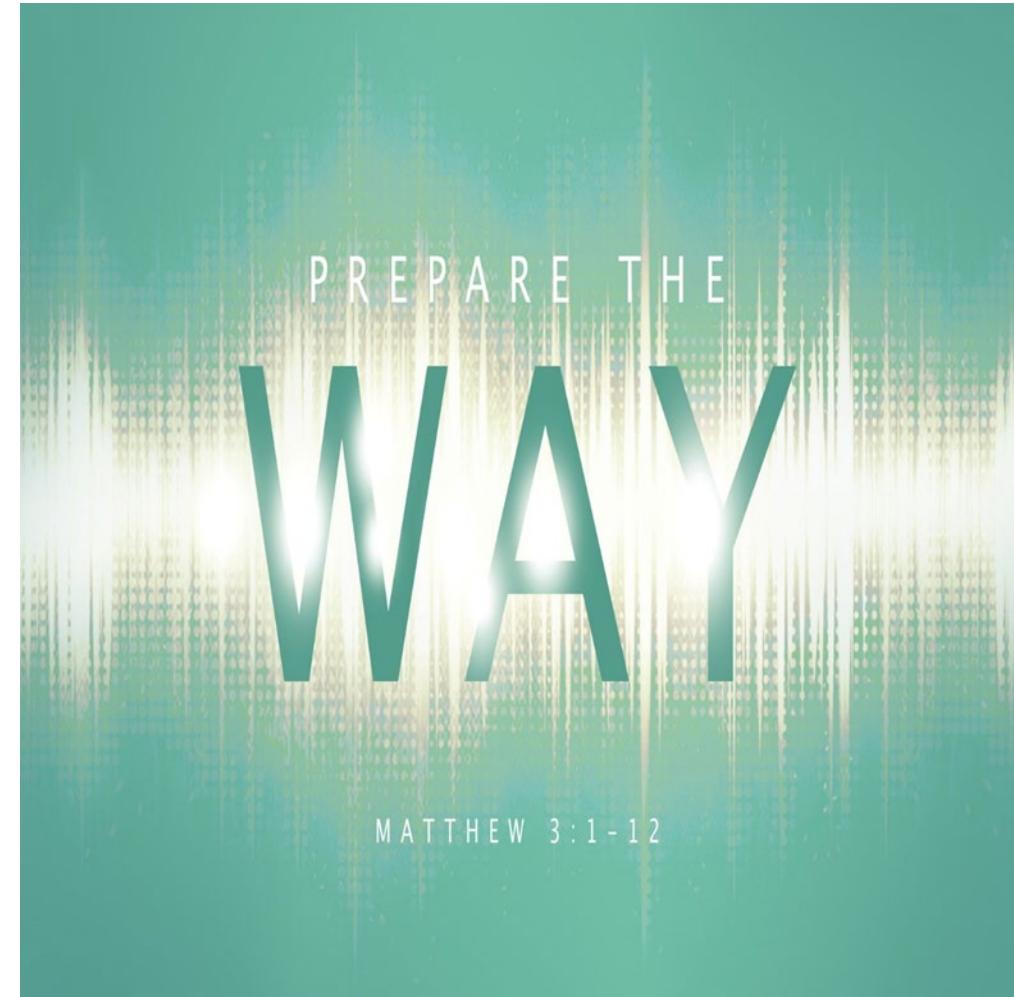
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PREPARE THE
WAY

MATTHEW 3:1-12

Matthew 3:11-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to
Matthew

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See

Theme of the Week Peace

Hear

Day 1	A scene linked to peace, e.g. someone making a first step or a symbol of peace
Day 2	A challenging or contrasting image that shows another side of peace
Day 3	A hopeful or future-focused image connected to peace

Day 1 Matthew 3:1-12

Day 2 Matthew 3:7-10

Day 3 Matthew 3:11-12

Day 1	What does peace mean in your daily life?
Day 2	How can peace guide your relationships with others?
Day 3	How does peace bring you closer to God?

Day 1 Choose one action today that expresses Peace.

Day 2 Do something today that shows Peace of another person.

Day 3 Commit to practice this week to deepen your Peace.

Think

Do

See

Theme of the Week

Peace

Hear

See the conflicts and "wilderness" areas in your life, school, or community where peace is missing (e.g., gossip, exclusion, online bullying). Recognize that the world often prioritizes self-interest over true peace.

Hear the call to stop fighting, stop hating, and let go of bitterness. Listen to the voices that encourage genuine change rather than just "looking good" or following the crowd.

Think about what needs to change in your own attitudes: what anger are you holding onto? What pride is getting in the way of an apology? What "us vs. them" mentality do you need to let go of to foster wholeness (shalom)?.

Do specific actions that reflect a peaceful heart: practice generosity, offer forgiveness, be a good friend, and take steps to reconcile. These acts, not just words or rituals, are how you "prepare the way" for peace in your own life and the lives of others.

Think

Do