

The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. We begin by praying: God our Father, source of all light, you have sent your Son into the world, to reveal yourself to all your children. Send your Spirit upon us now, that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to know him, may we come to love him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of your Kingdom. Amen.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is stronger than I am is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

HEARING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening! You have the words of eternal life!

*We read the passage 2-3 times. Reflect and share on **some** of the following:*

1. What words resonate with you? What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
2. According to Mark, what are the two things the messenger does?
3. How did the people respond to John? Why do you think they responded in this way?
4. What is John's task? How does John see his task?



**HAPPENING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening!
In the Light of the Word we look at our lives**

*We read the passage again and reflect on **some** of the following:*

1. "I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way." Who is preparing the way of the Lord in our world today?
2. "...the voice of one crying out in the wilderness." What are the wildernesses of our world today? Who is crying out in those wildernesses? What are they saying?
3. Who are the voices crying out in our communities, in our church, in our world today?

