

Lesson Plan 1-01-11

Gospel lesson - Mark 1: 1-8

“ Behold I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare Your way before You” prophecy from Malachi 3:1 , Malachi was an Old Testament prophet who lived 500 years before Christ, his book or prophecy concerns turning from sin, because the day of the Lord is coming.

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord make His Paths straight” prophecy from Isaiah 40:3 , Isaiah prophet who lived 700 years before Christ prophecy concerns the Holy One of Israel who punishes the unrepentant but later will redeem them

God speaks after 300 years - there had not been a prophet to speak to Israel in a long time then God sends another prophet, John the Baptizer

John preached a message of repentance for the remission of sins. All went out to him and were all baptized by him confessing their sins.

John preached “there comes one after me who I am not worthy to even loose His sandal, I baptize you with water but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit

Who is God’s messenger?

How would you describe him?

What is John’s purpose and message?

How can we prepare the way of the Lord to make his paths straight?

Repentance - change of mind and thus behavior, not simply feeling sorry for our sins and asking forgiveness it is positive.

Repentance opens, the door to let God’s light into our lives, our minds and hearts

Baptism one of the seven sacraments in the church. Literally to be immersed we are joined to Christ and His church in this sacrament.

Sacrament is a visible sign of an invisible grace.

Epiphany – literally a breaking through from above

Theophany is a manifestation of God Examples: burning bush, transfiguration of Christ, Holy Spirit at Jesus' baptism

January 6th the Orthodox Church celebrates the greatest Theophany – Epiphany the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist

It is the first time in the New Testament that we have the Trinity made manifest. Math 3: 13-17

God revealed Himself as Trinity at Epiphany – Baptism of Jesus

God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit play an important role in the life and worship of an Orthodox Christian

1. Make the sign of the cross Father, Son and Holy Spirit..... the three fingers are brought together to signify we believe in one God
2. We are baptized in the name of the Trinity
3. We are married in the name of the trinity
4. We bless the name of the Trinity “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
5. We are Blessed in the name of the Trinity “ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all Amen “
6. We confess belief in the name of the Trinity in the Creed
7. We pray “Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us!” This is the Trinity we are praying to. Holy God – Father Holy Mighty – the Son, Holy Immortal – the Holy Spirit