

Space for God Prepare the Way

PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting,

"Clear the way through the wilderness for the Lord!

Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God! Isaiah 40:3

CONFESSION

"Get up! Command the people to purify themselves in preparation for tomorrow. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Hidden among you, O Israel, are things set apart for the Lord.

You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things from among you. Joshua 7:13

ADORATION & GRATITUDE

O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops! Shout it louder, O Jerusalem.

Shout, and do not be afraid. Tell the towns of Judah, "Your God is coming!" Isaiah 40:9

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION—Mark 1:1-8

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read Slowly, several times.

Reflect What does the text say?

Respond How does it relate to my life?

Rest I welcome God's healing and renewal.

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

"Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! Clear the road for him!'"

This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

John announced: "Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie

the straps of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!"

ANCHORING PRAYER

I prepare my heart for Your return.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

What preparations have I made for Christ's return?

What further preparation remains?

WISDOM

Go out through the gates! Prepare the highway for my people to return! Smooth out the road; pull out the boulders; raise a flag for all the nations to see. Isaiah 62:10

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. 1 Peter 1:13

John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:5

TESTIMONY

What is God saying to me/us?

INTERCESSION

Prayers for the Church, others, and me.

BENEDICTION

And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.

-Amen-

1 John 2:28

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.