

## Advent 3 - John the Baptist

The third candle is lit as we remember John the Baptist, and his message that the kingdom of God is at hand because Jesus is the long awaited Messiah, and so we pray -

God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,

and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.

Help us, who have been baptized into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,

and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. **Amen.**

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare, for you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**



1.Hark! A herald voice is calling:  
'Christ is nigh' it seems to say;  
'cast away the dreams of  
darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'

2.Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from  
heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of  
sorrow,  
one and all to be forgiven.

### **Lectionary**

Isaiah 61: 1 - , 8 - 11

Psalms 126 *or* Luke 1: 46b - 55

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 24

John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28



### **Collect**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who at your first coming sent your  
messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
Grant that the ministers and  
stewards of your mysteries may  
likewise so prepare and make ready  
your way by turning the hearts of  
the disobedient to the wisdom of  
the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the  
world we may be found an  
acceptable people in your sight; for  
you are alive and reign with the  
Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.