

*Lectio Divina*  
*December 5, 2020*  
*Greeting and Opening Prayer*

**Part I**

- 1) Hear the text read.
- 2) Recall the text by saying a word or short phrase that touched your heart. Listen to what others say. If someone says your word, simply repeat it again.

**Part II:** Commentary by Dan Horan, OFM

**Part III:** Hear/See the text again with 5 mins silence

**Part IV: Reflection and Sharing in Small Groups**

- ◇ Share your reflections on what is happening in the text and what it means today.
- ◇ What do you observe?
- ◇ Is there anything that leaves you perplexed/confused?
- ◇ What does this text mean to you?
- ◇ What has praying with this text called forth from you personally?
- ◇ What needs to change in you having read this text?
- ◇ What difference will this text make in your life?

**Part V: Give Thanks**

Offer petitionary prayers to God.

*Closing Prayer*

Mark 1:1-8 NRSV

***John the Baptist Prepares the Way***

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,[a] the Son of God,[b] as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”[c]—  
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.”[d]*

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with[e] water, but he will baptize you with[f] the Holy Spirit.”

Footnotes

- a. Mark 1:1 Or Jesus Christ. Messiah (Hebrew) and Christ (Greek) both mean Anointed One.
- b. Mark 1:1 Some manuscripts do not have the Son of God.
- c. Mark 1:2 Mal. 3:1
- d. Mark 1:3 Isaiah 40:3
- e. Mark 1:8 Or in
- f. Mark 1:8 Or in

