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 baptizer 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 

flocked to him, 

admitting their sins and asking him to baptize them. 

He wore camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 

Then John appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea: 

‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 

He also said to those who came out to be baptized by him, ‘You yourselves as snakes in the grass. 

Is it not written in your law, “You are to love your neighbor as yourself”? Do this, and you will live.’ 

But those people came to him from Jerusalem, as well as all Judea and all the region around the Jordan. 

He also said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘What do you expect me to do for you? 

Do not lay snares for me, and do not begin to urge me to do anything you do not have to do. 

It is written, “You must not test the Lord,” 

and “You must not put the Lord to the test.”’ 

The crowd answered him, ‘Everyone is baptizing, even John. Do you have any word from God?’ 

Then John answered, ‘I baptize with water, but one is coming after me, whose shoes I am not worthy to untie. 

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 

His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor but gather his wheat into his barn, and burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’ 

The people asked him, ‘Who are you, sir?’ 

John answered, ‘I am not the one you are looking for, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals.’
ple of Je-ru-sa-lem were go-ing out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jor-dan, con-fes-sing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with cam-el’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild hon-ey. 7 He pro-
claimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is com-ing af-ter me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his san-dals. 8 I have baptized you with wa-ter; but he will bap-tize you with the Ho-ly Spir-it.

¶ The Gos-pel of the Lord. ¶ Praise to you, Lord Christ.